Hafa Adai!

HANMI occupancy at 26% in October 2022. PAGE 3
GMS takes top spots in PGFC face-to-face competition. PAGE 6

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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No SCC runoff debate since 'only Torres' camp said yes'

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will not be hosting a gubernatorial debate prior to the runoff election on Nov. 25 because only the camp of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has accepted the SCC's invitation to participate in the debate.

In an announcement yesterday, the SCC said that there will be no gubernatorial debate for the runoff election because only one of two candidates accepted its invitation to participate in a debate prior to the start of early voting on Nov. 18, 2022.

See SCC on Page 4

Man gets $50K bail for alleged sexual assault

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who works aboard one of the preposition ships off the Saipan lagoon has been accused of sexually assaulting a female colleague and a $50,000 cash bail was imposed for his

See MAN on Page 4

THE 'INDEPENDEMS' COALITION

The coalition of the independent party of Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and the Democratic Party tandem of Rep. Christina "Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) and Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan)—now known as the "Independems"—unveil yesterday their unity pledge that makes official the partnership between the parties, where they agreed on certain issues that will be addressed if the Palacios-Apatang tandem were to win in the upcoming runoff election.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

All set for tomorrow's start of early voting for runoff

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is all set for tomorrow's start of the seven-day early voting for the runoff election.

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol also disclosed Tuesday that they had already printed 21,680 ballots from a local vendor for the Nov. 25 runoff election.

» 21,680 ballots already printed for the runoff election

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate, Sen. Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), of the Republican Party, will be squaring off at the runoff race with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and his running mate, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, of the

See RUNOFF on Page 4

Igitol

Undersea Uracas volcano likely erupting

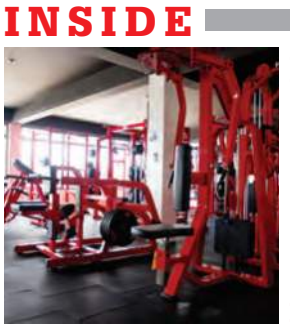
By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—A volcano is likely erupting deep beneath the Pacific Ocean in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, but scientists don't know for sure because it's so inaccessible.

All indications are that the Ahyi Seamount began erupting in mid-October, the U.S.

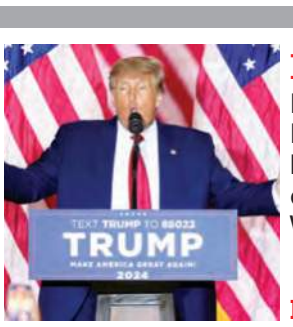
See VOLCANO on Page 4

INSIDE



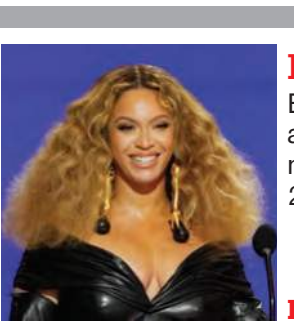
BUSINESS
Drifter's Gym, a 24-hour place for working out and socializing, has opened its doors in As Lito.

PAGE 11



NATION
Former President Donald Trump has launched his third campaign for the White House.

PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE
Beyoncé has claimed a history-making nine nominations at the 2022 Grammys.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

NMC, Governor's Office to host meet-and-greet with Hollywood filmmaker

The Northern Marianas College and the CNMI Office of the Governor will host a meet-and-greet with longtime Hollywood filmmaker Brad Krevoy on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, from 6pm to 8pm at the Hafa Adai Roasting Company café in T Galleria in Garapan.

One of the most prolific and adaptable independent film/TV producers working today, Krevoy has played a key role in the finance, development, production, and distribution of more than 150 motion picture and television projects, most famously the 1994 blockbuster comedy, *Dumb and Dumber* starring Jim Carrey.

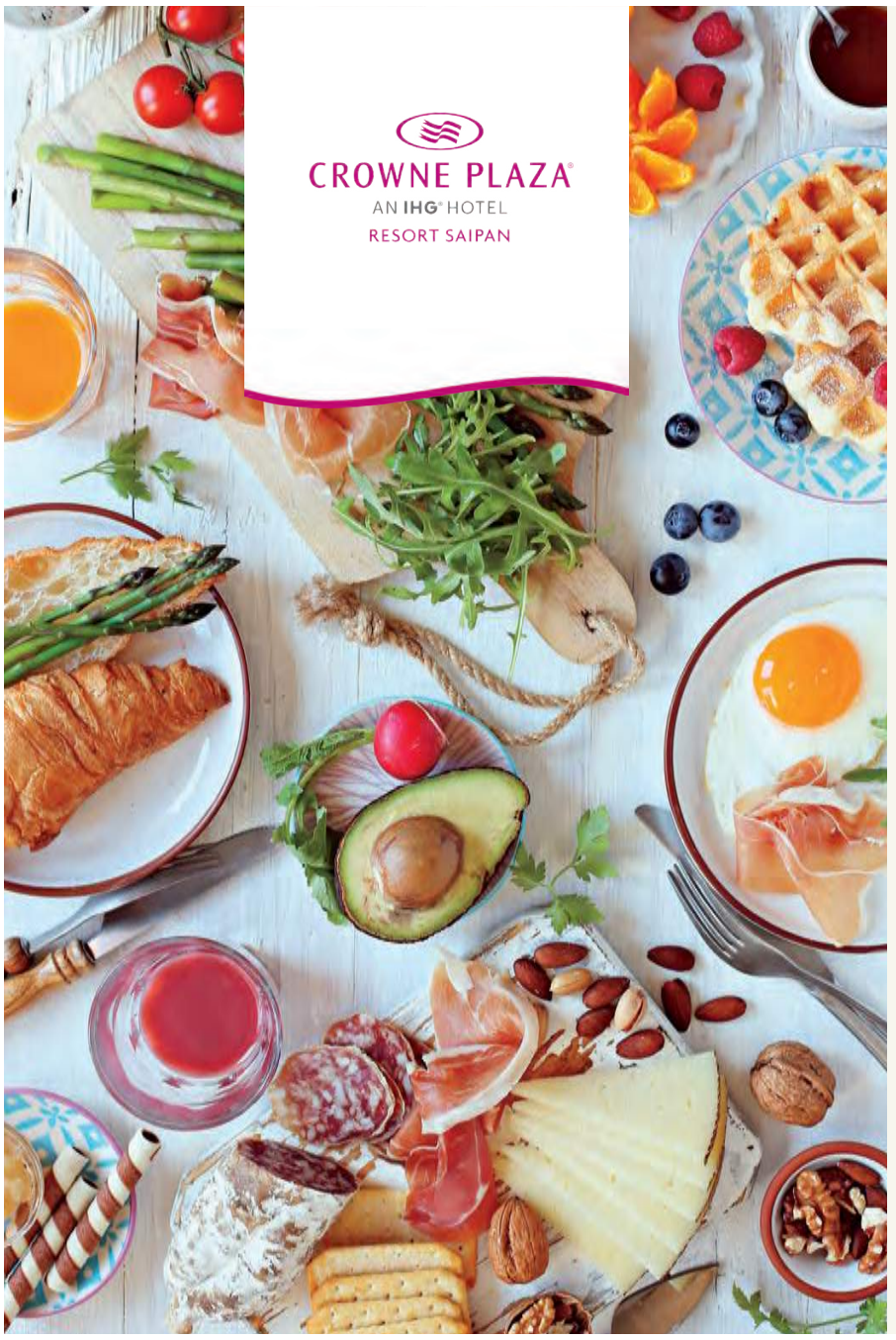
He has been recently well-known within the holiday and family film space, having produced more than 50 highly rated and well-received projects for Netflix and Hallmark since 2013. He recently produced Netflix's 2020 film *Operation Christmas Drop*, which was filmed in Guam. His latest film, *Falling for Christmas* starring Lindsay Lohan, is currently on the Netflix Top 10 list.

Krevoy

His portfolio includes Netflix's *Christmas Prince* trilogy starring Rose McIver and Ben Lamb, *The Princess Switch* starring Vanessa Hudgens, *Holiday in the Wild* starring Rob Lowe and Kristin Davis, *The Crossword Mysteries* starring Lacey Chabert, *A Christmas Melody* starring Mariah Carey, *I'll Be Home for Christmas* starring Josh Brolin, and *The Wedding March* starring Jack Wagner, as well as the hit longest-running Hallmark series *When Calls the Heart*, currently airing its seventh season, and the spin-off series *When Hope Calls*, which premiered as a launch title for Hallmark's new streaming service in 2019.

Krevoy is the chief executive officer and co-founder of the Motion Picture Corporation of America, a leading provider of commercial motion picture product at all budget levels and an aggressive sales and marketing force with U.S. studios and international buyers. MPCA's motion picture and television projects have grossed more than $1 billion worldwide in all media.

He is also known for jump-starting the careers of many young actors and filmmakers who have gone on to become some of the biggest names working in Hollywood today, including the Farrelly Brothers, Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller, Sarah Jessica Parker, Will Ferrell, Viggo Mortensen, Ashley Judd, Jude Law, Reese Witherspoon, Paul Rudd, Kirsten Dunst, Courtney Cox, Bill Paxton, Ben Foster, Gretchen Mol, and Jon Turteltaub. ***(PR)***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HANMI occupancy at 26% in October 2022

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported yesterday a 26% average occupancy rate among its 13 member-hotels in October 2022, compared to 33% average occupancy in October 2021.

Although the average percentage rate is lower than a year ago, the actual number of rooms sold is 15 percentage higher than last year, as more hotels and more rooms have reopened. A total of 16,171 of 61,445 available room nights sold during October 2022, compared to 9,915 of 42,282 available rooms sold in October 2021. Average room rates have also increased in the last year to $144.50 in October 2022, compared to $136.10 last October.

"We are seeing steady yet only incremental increase in occupancy at this time," said HANMI chair Ivan Quichocho. "The main issue impacting the booking pace and our arrivals is the foreign exchange. We continue to face the challenge of a very strong U.S. dollar that is dissuading travelers from choosing a U.S. destination. We are encouraged by the strengthening of the yen to 140 against the dollar from the position of 150 only a couple of weeks ago. But this is the nature of tourism; it is a volatile industry. We will continue to work strategically and stay the course until we see full recovery."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical report are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, Coral Ocean Resort, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort, and Surfrider Resort Hotel.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(PR)***

Kilili says the CEC deserves praise

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said the Commonwealth Election Commission deserves praise for seeing the Nov. 8 general election through successfully.

In his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend, Sablan said that last week's election was the first since 2018 when typhoon recovery or a global COVID-19 pandemic were not a significant barrier to holding elections in the Marianas and, except for the gubernatorial runoff, the election season is now over.

Sablan

"To all who ran for office—win or lose—thank you for giving voters a broad array of voices to choose from, keeping our democracy, and

See XX on Next Page

TRIPLE J

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• KBB: $38,750

2018 MAZDA MX-5 MIATA CONVERTIBLE

SALE PRICE $26,995

• MILES: 20,023
• KBB: $30,526
• STK: 18P452

2018 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT

SALE PRICE $18,995

• MILES: 13,687
• KBB: $23,321
• STK: 18HS1000

2021 HYUNDAI PALISADE LIMITED

SALE PRICE $43,995

• MILES: 2,724
• KBB: $55,838
• STK: 21H096D

STOCK #	YEAR	MODEL	KBB	SALE PRICE
10P468B	2020	MAZDA CX-3 SPORT	$24,049	$19,995
20R292	2020	HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT	$24,274	$19,995
18HS985B	2019	HONDA ACCORD SPORT	$31,170	$29,995
22H195A	2016	MAZDA6 GT	$18,363	$17,995
21H047A	2018	HYUNDAI KONA SPORT	$19,995	$16,995
16P435	2016	MAZDA CX-5 TOURING	$23,370	$19,995
14P342B	2016	TOYOTA COROLLA LE	$18,277	$16,995
17P370	2017	TOYOTA COROLLA SE	$20,726	$16,995
16P487A	2017	KIA SPORTAGE LX	$19,269	$15,995
18P416	2018	TOYOTA RAV4 LE SPORT	$31,648	$24,995

STOCK #	YEAR	MODEL	KBB	SALE PRICE
15P498	2015	SCION FRS COUPE	$22,405	$26,995
22H183A	2011	FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE	$15,475	$8,995
21H068A	2016	HONDA CIVIC SEDAN	$14,455	$18,995
~~16P374~~	~~2016~~	~~HYUNDAI GENESIS~~ SOLD	~~$23,203~~	~~$19,995~~
16P467	2015	TOYOTA RAV4 LE	$25,989	$22,995
18P504	2018	TOYOTA 4RUNNER LIMITED	$45,875	$42,995
17HS1036	2017	FORD MUSTANG CONV.	N/A	$24,995
17P496	2017	MITSUBISHI LANCER ES	N/A	$21,995
16P446	2016	MAZDA3 SPORT	$18,937	$17,995
18R289	2018	FORD F150 PICK UP TRUCK	$29,854	$24,995

2018 HONDA CIVIC SEDAN EX

SALE PRICE $21,995

• MILES: 30,119
• KBB: $25,840
• STK: 22M032A

2017 KIA SEDONA LX

SALE PRICE $24,995

• MILES: 33,001
• KBB: $31,257
• STK: 17P482

2013 HONDA ACCORD EX

SALE PRICE $12,995

• MILES: 45,733
• KBB: $18,869
• STK: 22H129A

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Torres says he does not know what Palacios contributed behind the scenes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Responding to Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' claim that he works mostly behind the scenes, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Tuesday that he has been with Palacios for more than three years and that he still does not know what the lieutenant governor has contributed behind the scenes.

Responding to a question during a press conference, Torres said he will be amazed if he gets a picture that shows him working with Palacios during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the governor's previous statement about Palacios being nowhere at the height of the pandemic, Palacios said last week that he was present but behind the scenes to ensure that policies and regulations are followed so the CNMI can be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Palacios said he has always been present through every disaster the CNMI has faced in his tenure as lieutenant governor, including the pandemic. He said he has been working behind the scenes and doesn't need to prove he has been present through photo opportunities.

But Torres said Tuesday he wants to know how long Palacios has been working behind the scenes, because he (Torres) was the one ordering all the personal protective equipment and meeting with first responders.

Torres

"I know exactly where those items were coming. I know what was being purchased, how much were being purchased, where they were being purchased and the difficulties of bringing them here," Torres said.

Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), of the Republican Party, topped the three-way general elections last Nov. 8, but failed to get the majority, paving for a runoff race against second placer Palacios and his running mate, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, of the unified independent team. The runoff election will be on Nov. 25.

Torres said at their press conference that he knows the airline challenges and how difficult ordering PPEs items at the time.

"So I don't know exactly where he fits in as to working behind the scenes," Torres said, referring to Palacios.

He said the photos showed that he was there with the first responders.

On the issue of the government's deficit, Torres said the costs happened because of the disasters and now with the pandemic. The governor said he will do whatever it takes to make sure that the people of the Commonwealth is safe and for people to get their water supply and utilities.

Torres said he will deal with the deficit and that he can be criticized and continues to get criticized for that. "But at the end of the day, did I provide water to the people in a timely manner? Did we get federal assistance? Did that relationship [with federal agencies] help?" he asked.

The governor said he is not going to save money and then jeopardize people's life. Torres said he made tough and unpopular decisions, but he made them for the best interest of the Commonwealth.

To dig the government out of its deficit, they will have to build the economy, Sablan said. "And that's an investment. It takes money to do that, because we can't just see the deficit and hope that it'll just kind of fix itself," Sablan said.

He underscored the need to think creatively of how to bring in new industries, and to revive the tourism industry so the government can have that revenue to pay and cover that deficit.

"Deficits are here and in other jurisdictions, but there has to be actions that have to be taken to get out of deficits. We have the plans to do that," Sablan said.

VOLCANO

From Page 1

Geological Survey said Monday. The Northern Marianas are about 3,800 miles (6,115 kilometers) west of Honolulu.

Scientists are looking to see if the activity is shallow earthquakes or if material exploded from the crater, said Matt Haney, a USGS research geophysicist. Scientists are checking satellite data to see if there's discolored water, which could suggest material is coming out of the volcano, he said.

"There's nothing right now that suggests that this eruption will intensify and become a large eruption," Haney said.

Still, mariners would want to avoid the immediate area, he said.

Activity from an undersea volcanic source was picked up last month by hydroacoustic sensors some 1,400 miles away (2250 kilometers) at Wake Island.

With help from the the Laboratoire de Geophysique in Tahiti and data from seismic stations in Guam and Japan, scientists analyzed the signals to determine the source of the activity was likely Ahyi Seamount, the USGS said in a statement.

Activity has been declining in recent days, the statement said.

Ahyi seamount is a large conical submarine volcano. Its highest point is 259 feet (79 meters) below the surface of the ocean. It's located about 11 miles (18 kilometers) southeast of the island of Farallon de Pajaros, also known as Uracas.

"There are no local monitoring stations near Ahyi Seamount, which limits our ability to detect and characterize volcanic unrest there," the agency said. "We will continue to monitor available remote hydrophonic, seismic, and satellite data closely."

The seamount is part of the Mariana Volcanic Arc, which is a chain of over 60 active volcanoes stretching over 600 miles west of and parallel to the Mariana Trench, the world's deepest point.

SCC

From Page 1

The runoff election will pit the team of incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres-Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan) of the NMI Republican Party and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios-Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang of the unified independent team.

"To date, only [Torres] has accepted the SCC's invitation," the SCC statement said.

The SCC news release stated that its Events Committee, executive director, and staff were prompted to begin the process of arranging a debate in response to statements made by the Republican Party and independent camps during their respective press conferences, and reinforced by Torres' public call for a debate and a public response from Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, "who also emphatically agreed to a debate."

"The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has long held the position to conduct gubernatorial candidate debates impartially and maintain the decorum of a non-partisan civic business organization. Unfortunately, in a recent press release by the Committee to Elect Arnold and Dave, the last SCC debate was questioned as to impartiality of the debate questions and structure. While our questions may seem mundane, they are intended to embody our bylaws, which call for our organization to remain nonpartisan but, just as important, they reflect the issues most pertinent to our Chamber members, thus our call to members to submit questions," the SCC statement said.

Palacios' camp has reportedly stated that it will participate in a debate if the parties are required to be under oath. The SCC, however, finds this problematic. "No prior SCC debate, nor any other similar debate in the United States, require participation while being under oath. For the independent camp leadership to now call into question the SCC's process and debate content is not within keeping of our reputation and integrity to conduct fair and balanced debates.

"The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has worked hard to uphold complete professionalism and the integrity of a fair and impartial debate structure for the last six gubernatorial debates, and we can provide yet another for this runoff election cycle should both candidates wish to participate," it said.

The SCC is a non-profit organization with over 140 members to date.

'Opponents have no clue'

Separately, in a statement yesterday from the NMI Republican Party, it said the Palacios-Apatang tandem has "no clue about how to run a government."

The statement said: "Following the primary election, a public announcement was made by Palacios about debating Torres 'anytime, anywhere.' However, a sudden scheduling conflict appears to be one reason for the Palacios-Apatang camp to renege on that agreement.

"The independent team recently issued a release that states, in part, that they do not want to engage in a debate.

"It's disingenuous, but not surprising. This leads me to believe that they have no plans on how to lead our Commonwealth," Torres said.

"Even worse, Torres noted, is the Palacios-Apatang camp's other excuse for refusing to participate in a debate.

"They would prefer to discuss false allegations that were brought up in an illegal legislative attempt to impeach me, and COVID-related information that has been shared publicly," Torres added. "If Arnold and David cannot commit an hour of their time to share their plans on bolstering the economy, protecting the environment, or improving the lives of our people, it simply means they have none." ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***

RUNOFF

From Page 1

unified independent team.

Igitol said that early voting hours are from 8:30am to 4pm, all the way to Nov. 24.

She said early voting on Saipan and the Northern Islands will be at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Early voting on Tinian and Rota will be at the Tinian Boating Safety and Rota Department of Public Safety, respectively.

Igitol urged CNMI voters to exercise their right to vote and let their voices heard.

With respect to the 21,680 ballots printed locally, the executive director said it's the same number of ballots that they had ordered from Nebraska for the Nov. 8 general election.

"It's already printed. We have to be fast because we're going to mail it out," said Igitol, referring to absentee voting packages.

Regarding the need to charter a boat to get eights votes from the Northern Islands, Igitol said they are still working on it, but that they are not going to use the Department of Public Safety's vessel.

"I'm thinking more of the people that I'm going to send there," Igitol said. She did not elaborate.

She said they have to be in the Northern Islands two days prior to the runoff election day.

MAN

From Page 1

temporary release.

Willie Carnell Frink, a steward supervisor of a maritime prepositioning ship, was unable to post bail, though, and remains in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed the $50,000 cash bail on Frink last Monday.

Frink, 40, is facing a charge of one count of sexual assault in the first degree.

Following his bail hearing and initial appearance, Frink was remanded back to DOC custody, but was ordered to return to court on on Nov. 23, at 10am for his preliminary hearing, while his arraignment was set for Nov. 28 at 9am before Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

Frink is being represented by assistant public defender Tyler Scott, while assistant attorney general Frances Demapan is prosecuting the case on behalf of the government.

According to the complaint filed by the victim, she and Frink are coworkers and the defendant serves as her supervisor.

The victim told police that on Nov. 11, at around 1pm, she was "hanging out" with Frink and they went swimming at a hotel later that day. She said that Frink invited her to the hotel, stating that he rented a room where they could continue to hang out.

The victim told police that she and Frink had been drinking alcohol while they were swimming as it was happy hour. However, the victim said that, after the second drink, she started feeling very dizzy, nauseous, and shaky. She told Frink that she was not feeling well and that prompted them to head to the hotel room that Frink had rented. After getting dressed, the victim said she sat down on the bed as she felt dizzy.

Frink then allegedly offered the victim a massage. The victim said she was hesitant, but Frink allegedly placed his hands on her shoulders anyway. Despite her attempts to shrug him off, the victim said, Frink laid her down on the bed and rubbed her back. She said she tried to squirm away, but Frink held her down.

The victim said she started to feeling "confused" during the struggle and then blacked out. When she regained consciousness, she claims that Frink was having sex with her.

KILILI

From Page 3

remember: you civic duty is not yet done this year," the delegate said.

Sablan urged people to follow CEC's website for updates on dates and polling locations for the runoff election for governor and lieutenant governor.

Sablan ran unopposed for his eight term in the U.S. Congress under the Democratic Party.

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol said yesterday that Sablan knows because he was once a CEC executive director. "He's speaking from one being inside here," Igitol said.

CEC has received criticisms from some candidates and people in the community after the commission completed the tabulation of votes after about 21 hours. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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WAS: $235.95

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WAS: $1.59

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GMS takes top spots in PGFC face-to-face competition

In the first live competition of the Primary Grade Forensic Competition since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the students and coaches of Green Meadow School were ready and took several top spots from the Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Category and 3rd to 5th Grade Category.

A news release from the school said that the GMS Falcons intend to keep up the momentum in the upcoming competition in November.

K-2 CATEGORY
Dramatic Interpretation Group A

1st–Arianne Theresa S. Butson

Humorous Interpretation (HI-A)

1st – Elijah Mosiah Sansi

Impromptu Group A

1st – Ian Noel L. Escarcha

Readers Forum Group A

2nd – Nathan Angelo M. Reyes

3rd – Faith Chloe M. Dela Cruz

4th – Sansone Nikolai P. Cabrera

Readers Forum Group B

2nd – Kira H. George

3rd – Jaira Hope S. Quindoza

Readers Forum Group C

1st – Liam Roi S. Buston

Readers Forum Group D

1st – Ana Marie I. Malasaga

2nd – Autumn D'Ann Pangilinan

5th – Isaiah Liann S. Formanes

CCLHS – Chamorro Speaking

1st – Joseph Paul Leuma Jr.

2nd – Azaiah H. Lisua

Duo Group A

1st – Princess Chloe Lopez and Kira George

2nd – Rhussel Umali and Chrismarie Nab

Duo Group B

1st – Arianne Theresa Buston & Liam Roi Buston

Choral Speaking Group A

2nd Ian Noel Escarcha, Joseph Paul Leuma Jr., Elijah Mosiah Sansi, Rhussel Umali

3rd – Chrismarie Nabetinan, Autumn D'Ann Pangelinan, Ana Marie Malasaga

3-5 CATEGORY
Dramatic Interpretation Group A

1st – Juliana Kai Ortiz

Humorous Interpretation Group A

4th – Amir Zacharaiah T. Brantley

5th – Kyle Enrico M. Padilla

Impromptu Group A

1st – Jamie Andrea A. Palabay

2nd – Angelee SG. Agdoro

3rd – Miel Jewel L. Mabaquiao

Declamation

1st – Jamie Andrea A. Palabay

2nd – Nathaniel V. Coloma

Readers Forum Group A

3rd – Kiani Jayde I. Delos Reyes

5th – Jadynn Palacios

Readers Forum Group B

2nd – Roanne Palma

5th – Rayne Angela R. Roquelara

Readers Forum Group D

5th – Johana Elizabeth Sarabia

CCLHS – Chamorro Speaking Group B

1st – Juslynn Ariette Mizutani

4th – James A. Kisa

Duo Group A

2nd – Amir Zacharaiah T. Brantley & Benji Escano Jr.

5th – Emmjie E. Escano & Johana Elizabeth Sarabia

Choral Speaking Group A

1st – Rihanna Sansi, Mary Joy Pasaylo, John Rey Daca, Emmjie Escano, Kaiser Manganti

2nd – Davizin Carmen Zareen Nekaifes, Rayne Angela Roquelara, Lanz Carmelo Salamat, Albert Santos, Angelee SG Agdoro

3rd – Jadean Bryana Balboa, Jadynn Palacios, Bella Marim Pastula, Jade Haven S Quindoza

4th – John Matthew Aumentado, Czainah Chutin, Aira Joy Daca, Miel Jewel Mabaquiao, Iandre Ranin ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School's Primary Grade Forensic Competition winners in the 3-5 Division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School's Primary Grade Forensic Competition winners in the K-2 Division.

GMS STUCO campaigns against bullying

To support the anti -bullying campaign in the month of October, Green Meadow School's Student Council officers have prepared many ways to show how to prevent bullying.

The school's STUCCO officers went to every classroom to show the many types of bullying and how to prevent them. The many types of bullying—physical, verbal and cyber-bullying—were shown through presentations and skits. The members of the STUCCO acted out various scenarios of the types of bullying, showing what bullying can do to a person mentally and physically.

The presentations showed many ways of how to stop bullying, such as reporting acts of bullying and showing support to the victim. They also posted flyers in each classroom, which depicted the severity of bullying. This is rampant around the world.

To bully—meaning seek to harm, intimidate, or coerce someone who is perceived as vulnerable—is damaging to a person's mind and body. It could lead to bad thoughts about themselves and lower their self-esteem. These are the many reasons why we have a month for it, to support people who have been bullied or are being bullied.

The result of this campaign has greatly affected the students since there is less bullying on the campus. Multiple students have benefited from what the STUCCO had shown them.

"…The campaign is…a great way to spread awareness about the things that happen on school grounds," said Nicole Acaba, a 7th grader in the school.

The younger students can now fully understand what bullying is, the types of bullying there is, and how to prevent it. Since the STUCCO also showed what bullying was visually, the students can see who is bullying and prevent it.

Bullying is a serious topic for schools around the world, and the GMS STUCO was glad to help other students understand it. The STUCCO hopes that they educate many students about bullying. ***(PR)***

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Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)
PHASE III AND PHASE IV OF ROUTE 33
BEACH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. CRM-MS2022-0001 (formerly SMS-2022-062) – The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to commence Phase III and Phase IV of the Route 33 Beach Road Improvement Project. Phase III will begin from Route 33/Route 31 Intersection, in front of the former Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) building in Chalan Laolao, to Angaha Street, before the RNV Construction and Horiguchi buildings in South Garapan. Phase IV begins on Angaha Street in South Garapan to Micro Beach Road and American Memorial Park (AMP) Intersection in North Garapan.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 5:00PM,** at the **DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

To maintain the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315). Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Phase III and Phase IV of the Route 33 Beach Road Improvement Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP NO.: RFP23-DOF/NMIRF-42300010

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 1, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SINGLE AUDIT (FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE SERVICES) FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB ARE DUE ON **NOVEMBER 22, 2022**, CLOSE OF BUSINESS AND CAN BE MADE TO MRS. VELMA BENAVENTE VIA E-MAIL AT nmirf@dof.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-275 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Haaland visit highlights climate resilience investments in US territories

Cantor

Haaland

SAN JUAN—Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor visited the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico this week to highlight the department's efforts to bolster coastal and climate resilience in the U.S. territories, and opportunities to tell a more complete story of America.

Throughout the visit, they met with elected leaders and community partners, visited National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-managed areas, and toured sites that help tell the story of enslaved people in the USVI. The trip highlighted how significant investments from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act will help ensure the U.S. territories have the resources they need to withstand the impacts of extreme weather events and the climate crisis.

In St. Thomas, Haaland, Cantor, Gov. Albert Bryan, and Lt. Gov. Tregenza Roach honored the nation's veterans and military families at a Veterans Day parade and ceremony. Haaland and Cantor toured Fort Christian, a designated national historic landmark, and met with local high school student leaders from the Close-Up Organization and Junior Statesman of America.

In St. John, the Interior leaders visited Lind Point in the Virgin Islands National Park, which is rebuilding several infrastructure projects following the impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. They explored the Annaberg Sugar Plantation, where the NPS is working to integrate the story of the enslaved people who were integral to the history of the site. They hiked through Reef Bay and viewed area wildlife, petroglyphs and landscapes, where they heard about ongoing efforts to increase soil stabilization, prevent erosion on the park's beaches, and protect the biodiversity of the island.

» Multiple island stops spotlight Interior Department's work to tell America's story

In St. Croix, Haaland and Cantor visited The Nature Conservancy Coral Innovation Lab to learn about how it is advancing coral science and techniques to help reefs recover on a larger scale. The NPS has invested $1.1 million in a coral restoration partnership with TNC, which has provided support for the first land-based nursery on St. Croix, increasing the opportunity for long-term restoration efforts. This model of collaborative conservation is at the heart of the Biden-Harris administration's *America the Beautiful* initiative.

They were joined by FWS staff and scientists at Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge, to learn about their work to advance sea turtle management and recovery at the refuge. The visit culminated in the incredible experience of releasing newborn turtles that had hatched that morning but had not made it out of their nest. They traveled to the Christiansted National Historical Site where the NPS is educating visitors about the tragic history of the site, which includes public auctions of and brutality against enslaved people. The trip to St. Croix also included site visits to Point Udall and Buck Island Reef National Monument.

The visit highlighted the significant resources that have been directed to USVI through Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, including nearly $3 million in Technical and Maintenance Assistance program grants; $3.4 million under the Energizing Insular Communities program; $571,306 in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding; and $378,339 under the Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative. OIA also provides support to the USVI through the Executive Leadership Development Program and the Island Government Finance Officers Association managed under the Pacific and Virgin Islands Training Initiatives.

Haaland and Cantor then traveled to Puerto Rico, where they met with Gov. Pedro Pierluisi and Rep. Jenniffer González-Colón to discuss the Biden-Harris administration's ongoing support for the island. They visited the San Juan National Historic Site and toured the Castillo San Felipe del Morro, where they saw ongoing projects aimed at mitigating coastal erosion and climate impacts on the historic masonry structures of the area. They also visited Castillo San Cristobal, an 18th century military fortress also part of the NHS, which now captures and uses harvest rainwater to enable the park to be more sustainable, efficient, cost-conscious, and less burdensome to municipal water systems.

The Biden-Harris administration is committed to helping support the island's economic development and Hurricane Fiona response and recovery efforts through a comprehensive and holistic approach that sets the island on a course for prosperity. Key to this commitment is President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which is investing millions of dollars in Puerto Rico to bolster resilience against pressing challenges like impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. The Interior Department has also announced that a total of $15 million in funding for climate change technical assistance has been made available under the Inflation Reduction Act for the U.S. territories, to include Puerto Rico. ***(DOI)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DRT closed on Dec. 2

The Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation office would like to inform the public that our office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022 for staff professional development. Our office will resume our normal business hours on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022. ***(PR)***

Youth Congress session on Nov. 19

The 18th CNMI Youth Congress will convene its 10th regular session on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022, at 11am in the House of Representatives chamber. ***(PR)***

4.8-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 6:03pm on Nov. 15, 2022 a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred at 12.169°N 141.905°E in the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. ***(PR)***

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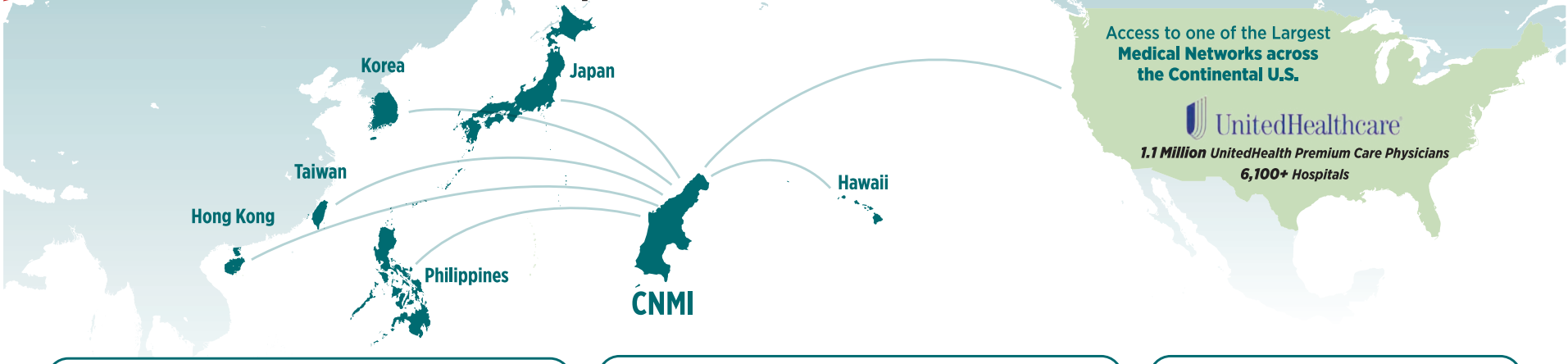

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Ahead of the election, rage and political violence weighed on voters' minds

Despite all the misread tea leaves by pollsters ahead of the Nov. 8 election, one pre-election poll offered signals about the influences affecting the choices of Republicans and Democrats as well as the ever-important independents who now dominate national election results. Americans headed into the election deeply concerned about rising political violence and feared an upswing in the months following last week's vote.

In spite of eye-popping spectacles of right-wing violence—including the Oct. 24 hammer attack on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband and the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection—only a slight plurality of respondents in a Nov. 2 Washington Post-ABC News poll believed Republicans were solely responsible for the current climate. Most respondents said that both parties are to blame.

Asked if political tensions have reached the point that there's an increased risk of violence, a whopping 88% said they were very or somewhat concerned. Republicans were blamed by 31% or respondents versus 25% who blamed Democrats, while 32% blamed both parties equally.

Nevertheless, Republicans joking about the Pelosi attack and the threat of a militant response to a GOP loss last Tuesday may have helped drive independents into the Democratic camp and prevent a Republican sweep. What's absolutely clear is that 2020 rage and threats of violence did not sell with voters in 2022.

More than half of respondents in the Nov. 2 poll said they were only somewhat or not at all interested in last Tuesday's election, but overwhelming majorities were attuned to violence.

Asked which party does a better job with the major issues of the day, Democrats held an edge on addressing abortion and climate change, but Republicans heavily dominated regarding the economy and crime. As for addressing threats to democracy, registered voters gave Democrats only a 4 percentage-point preference over Republicans—47% to 43%. That result might help explain why the Capitol insurrection could unfold live on television and dominate the news through months of investigations and congressional hearings, yet voters still didn't massively punish Republican candidates for it on Tuesday.

It appears that public attention to the insurrection and threats to democracy has waned considerably while the more immediate issues of crime and the economy weighed more heavily on voters' minds. The Capitol Hill violence may have wound up being overshadowed by inflation and the fear of violent crime in voters' everyday lives.

And no matter how much the pandemic and Russian invasion of Ukraine have sent worldwide inflation soaring, voters still tend to blame the party in power when things aren't working right.

Among respondents, 39% identified as independents, while 27% sided each with the Republican and Democratic parties. Ultimately, it appears, independents chose not to punish Democrats as much as other pre-election polls indicated they would.

The party that stops trying to play to the base with messages of rage and instead focuses on winning over independents is the party most likely to prevail in 2024.

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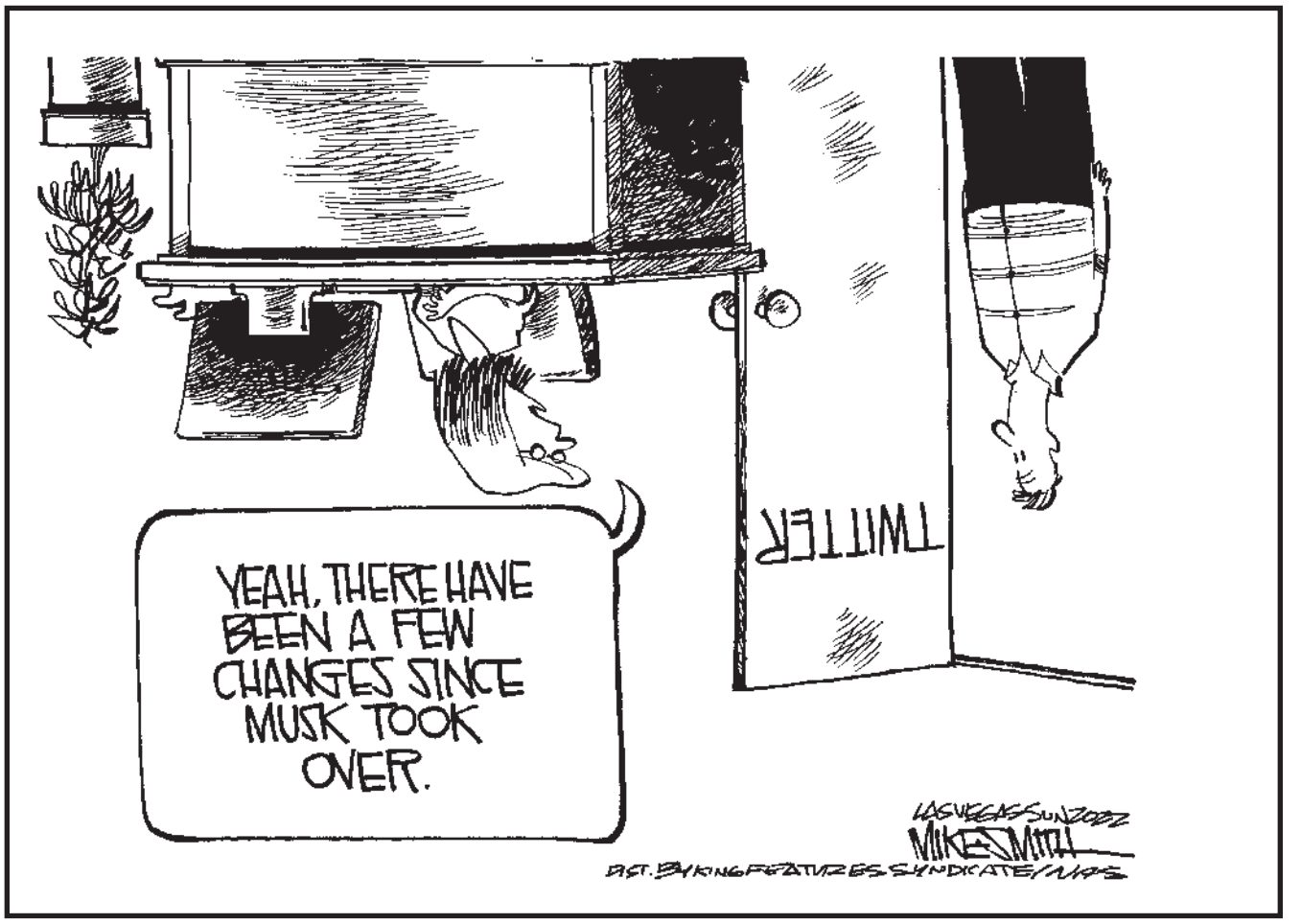
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We rarely prosecute bigots and racists who spew hate speech. And rightly so

By NICHOLAS GOLDBERG
Los Angeles Times

Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

In March, a woman dressed all in black like a Nazi SS officer and wearing a swastika armband got into an altercation with several local residents of Laguna Woods, California.

They tried to get her to remove the armband and she began shouting antisemitic comments. The Orange County Sheriff's Department, which was at the scene, recommended to the district attorney's office that she be charged with several crimes.

But nothing happened. For weeks and then months, officials at the D.A'.s office told me they were still reviewing the case. Finally when I asked last week, a spokeswoman acknowledged that the office had dropped it "for lack of sufficient evidence to prove a crime had been committed."

Similarly, when antisemitic fliers began appearing on Westside doorsteps and then in Pasadena, Beverly Hills and elsewhere, law enforcement quickly became involved. Last month, the Los Angeles Police Department said its Major Crimes Division was "aggressively investigating" and would "pursue every avenue to identify and prosecute" those involved.

But if I had to guess, I'd say that not much will come of that case either. And if some charges are brought they'll be for trespassing or disturbing the peace or some such tangential crime—not for the hate speech itself. Same goes for the people who unfurled the "Kanye is right about the Jews" banner above the 405 Freeway in October.

Now perhaps you think I should express outrage at law enforcement's inaction in the face of vicious, hurtful, intimidating bigotry. But I'm not going to. In fact, I think, on balance, that it's a good thing that we as a society have made it very difficult to prosecute people who engage in hateful speech.

"Congress shall make no law…abridging the freedom of speech," says the 1st Amendment. That's our bedrock principle: We don't toss people in prison for saying even the most offensive, bigoted or politically indefensible things.

That's why law enforcement's hands are often tied.

Of course free speech is not absolute, nor should it be. Government can prosecute people for expressing "true threats" or "fighting words" or for "incitement to imminent lawless action," among other things.

But for the most part, speech and expression—including marching around wearing swastikas and waving racist banners and tweeting or podcasting hateful sentiments—are broadly protected.

"Generally speaking, the law protects expression of all viewpoints, including offensive ones," says UCLA law professor Eugene Volokh. "The chief reason is that the legal system doesn't trust the government—or even the courts—to decide what's offensive enough to be banned and what is not."

Some people think that's a cop-out.

We regulate other forms of expression, they say, such as obscenity, incitement, libel and false advertising. So why shouldn't we also regulate hate speech? No societal good is served by letting Nazis and Klansmen march down our streets protected by the police. Given that this is a time of rising racism and antisemitism, they say, perhaps we should rethink 1st Amendment "fundamentalism" and impose some rational limits.

I disagree. I come down on the side of more speech, not less speech.

The reason the American Civil Liberties Union defended the right of Nazis to march through a Jewish neighborhood in Skokie, Illinois, in 1978 is that it understood that if you don't defend free expression when it's used by abhorrent people with repugnant beliefs, then it won't be there for you when you need it.

If Nazis are banned today, communists could be banned tomorrow and democratic socialists the next day. Or Democrats, for that matter.

Here's a historical example that's less hypothetical: In the 1949 case of Terminiello vs. Chicago, the ACLU argued in defense of a former Catholic priest who'd given a speech that was both racist and antisemitic. But that case created a precedent that later formed the basis for the ACLU's defense of civil rights demonstrators in the 1960s.

"Free speech rights," as the ACLU put it, "are indivisible."

When speech is restricted, it is often at the expense of the weak, unpopular, poor or marginalized, as well as those who dissent from mainstream views. During the civil rights movement, who do you think was arrested for unlawful assembly and for "distributing literature without a license" or for

See BIGOTS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In gratitude and honor to the CNMI

By KIMBERLY B. HOFSCHNEIDER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Capt. Kimberly B. Hofschneider of the U.S. Air Force is the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command liaison officer in the CNMI.

From start to finish, the month of November celebrates key themes that are near and dear to my heart. We are afforded the opportunity to exercise our civic duty in support of democracy by voting, we pause during the holidays to celebrate loved ones and express profound gratitude, and now Gov. Torres has given us another reason to be thankful by designating November as National Veterans and Military Families Month. It is my privilege and honor to share this unsolicited piece in tribute to this month's themes.

For those who may be unaware, I am a daughter of the CNMI. I enlisted into the Department of the Air Force in 2004 and received my commissioning as a Distinguished Graduate through Officer Training School in 2013. I've served in various positions, most notably as an intercontinental ballistic missiles crew commander, airfield operations flight commander, and instructor for Officer Training School. I have served three tours in support of multiple campaigns in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

In January 2022, I was assigned back home as the Indo-Pacific Command liaison officer. This is a fairly new position and it highlights the strategic importance of the CNMI in the world today. This one-year deployment has been an opportunity for me to serve my home while serving my country; they are different, but not mutually exclusive tasks. The greatest take away for me is the reality that CNMI veterans and military families are critical to an enduring and progressive partnership with the Department of Defense.

Before taking this assignment and returning home, I had discussions with leadership about what could be a potential conflict of interest for me in the CNMI. The DoD was very supportive of my desire to protect my home while simultaneously representing and advocating for DoD priorities. This was an important prelude to the future balancing act between military activities and the island lifestyle. It was important for my family and I to know that it was okay to be proud islanders who believe in protecting our *home* (families, land, democracy) and being a resource toward what the future of the CNMI and DoD required.

This opportunity may not be available to everyone, but it is important to know that the CNMI has been incredibly welcoming of our veterans returning home and of our critical work that we do within the DoD. I encourage everyone to tell our stories so that the CNMI's rich military history is not forgotten and as we look to the future, we look with faith, hope, and pride.

Many of us *taotao tano* have served, are currently serving, or know loved ones in various military branches. Talented Pacific islanders on both sides are critical to the future success of our home and our experiences and skills as both people of tiny Pacific islands and as veterans and military families are invaluable. Our work and experience matter. Our island and family values matter.

It is also important to recognize our families who are serving alongside us, in a different capacity but no less of a sacrifice. All three of my sons were born in places the military has sent me to but they are extremely proud *taotao tano*. Altogether, my three sons: ages 15, 11, and 7, have been to 27 different schools in support of my military career. My wife continues to have to stay flexible with her career amidst all the moves and multiple deployments. This particular assignment was such an amazing opportunity for my family to live on the islands we grew up in, surrounded by loved ones from Saipan, Tinian, and Luta. We can't wait to honorably complete this career, come back to our forever home, and continue to give back as we were taught. To the CNMI leaders across all islands, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, Veterans Affairs Office, and all agencies and partners on the ground who support all our veterans, military families, and our critical work here, *thank you. Thank you* for upholding *inafamaolek yan kommunidat* in all we do, together.

America remains exceptional through the good, the bad, and the ugly

By LYNN SCHMIDT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and Editorial Board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

America is exceptional. For those who may not believe so or may have forgotten, it is the job of the rest of us to show them the way.

In a focus group of one, a member of generation Z admitted to not considering America particularly exceptional. I guess I shouldn't be surprised considering the time in which my daughter has grown up and the context of when we were having this conversation.

This conversation took place on the very same day there was an attack on the home of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, which resulted in her husband's hospitalization. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who hails from Pelosi's state of California, was remarkably slow to condemn the attack.

During the same week that a 19-year-old gunman—who failed an FBI background check but still obtained a gun—entered a St. Louis high school with an assault rifle and 600 rounds of ammunition, killing a high school student and a beloved teacher.

During a month that a Democratic member of Congress from St. Louis signed a letter requesting that President Joe Biden negotiate with war criminal Vladimir Putin over the war in Ukraine and a local elementary school had been forced to close after an independent report showed excessive levels of radioactivity were discovered on the school campus.

In a year when hundreds of election deniers across the country were competing in Tuesday's election, McCarthy said he may likely curtail aid to Ukraine if Republicans took control of the House. American women lost a right that they have had for nearly 50 years. A former president was found to have classified documents in his Florida residence. And Missouri began requiring a photo ID in order to vote.

In the middle of a decade when selfishness exploded during a global pandemic, in which vaccine misinformation and mask wars ran rampant, for the first time in American history there was no peaceful transfer of power. And a gallows was erected in front of the U.S. Capitol while rioters hunted for the vice president while chanting, "Hang Mike Pence."

America might not have been acting exceptional lately.

But I fundamentally believe in a different kind of American exceptionalism. All of us have a responsibility to restore this core value and to highlight it for younger generations. Here's what I reminded my daughter:

Despite being brutally attacked with a hammer, Paul Pelosi, husband of Nancy Pelosi, was able to call 911. Law enforcement responded swiftly. Pelosi was taken to a hospital where he had emergent neurosurgery to repair a skull fracture from a hammer attack. Even though House GOP members were slow to condemn and some even made jokes about the attack, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell immediately condemned the attack.

Interim St. Louis police Chief Michael Sack described the police officers who responded to Central Visual and Performing Arts and Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience within four minutes after receiving the call for an active shooter: "They did an outstanding job. I don't know how they could have done better." The officers confronted the shooter eight minutes after they arrived. And police reported "suspect down" two minutes later, saving countless lives.

Progressive Democrats withdrew their letter calling for more diplomatic efforts with Russia. Biden remains committed to the cause of defending democracy here and abroad, specifically in Ukraine. As of right now, most members of Congress still support funding Ukraine's war effort.

Local, state and national elected officials have committed to remediation of the radioactive waste found at Jana Elementary in Florissant, calling for a declaration of a federal emergency.

Under Operation Warp Speed, coronavirus vaccines were developed in record time, and millions of doses were dispensed less than a year after the pandemic landed on our shores. Millions of health care heroes kept our medical centers open despite the risk to their health and the health of their loved ones. Vaccines that target cancer could be available by 2030, according to the husband-and-wife team behind one of the most successful coronavirus vaccines.

Countless volunteers got out the vote on Tuesday in order to defeat election deniers. Thousands of other remarkable Americans worked as poll workers during the height of the pandemic in 2020, making that election the most secure election in our lifetime.

Because of brave law enforcers at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, members of Congress and the vice president were kept safe. The electoral votes were certified, and Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States.

All parents have had the experience when their usually good child makes a series of mistakes. But a string of bad behavior doesn't change the inherent goodness of the child. This is how I approach our American experiment. America may be stumbling now, but we remain special, all because of exceptional people who live here.

BIGOTS

From Page 8

making "statements calculated to breach the peace"? Hint: It wasn't the Ku Klux Klan.

Hate speech isn't harmless. It can be painful and damaging in its own right, and it often reflects rising hatred in the community that needs to be closely monitored and publicly renounced.

And few would deny that there's a connection between hate speech and hate crimes, including violent crimes.

In the last few years, the incidence of hate crimes across the country and in California has been rising, led, in 2020, by an increase in anti-Asian crimes. What's more, a USC report suggests that in the first six months of 2022, hate crimes against Black, transgender and LGBTQ Angelenos were up significantly compared with the same period in 2021. And an Anti-Defamation League report found that antisemitic incidents nationally reached an all-time high in 2021.

These are tense, frightening times, with tensions running high. Polls show that about 20% of us from both political parties agree or strongly agree that political violence can be acceptable. The antisemitic incidents in Laguna Woods, Beverly Hills and elsewhere are deeply disturbing.

But the solution cannot be to arrest or prosecute people for expressing ideas and opinions. The United States rightly allows people to wear shirts saying "F— the draft" and to burn the American flag. It also lets them ridicule other people's religions. And it permits the expression of hateful points of view.

We should fight hate crimes, but when it comes to hate speech, our best weapon is more intelligent, more humane speech.

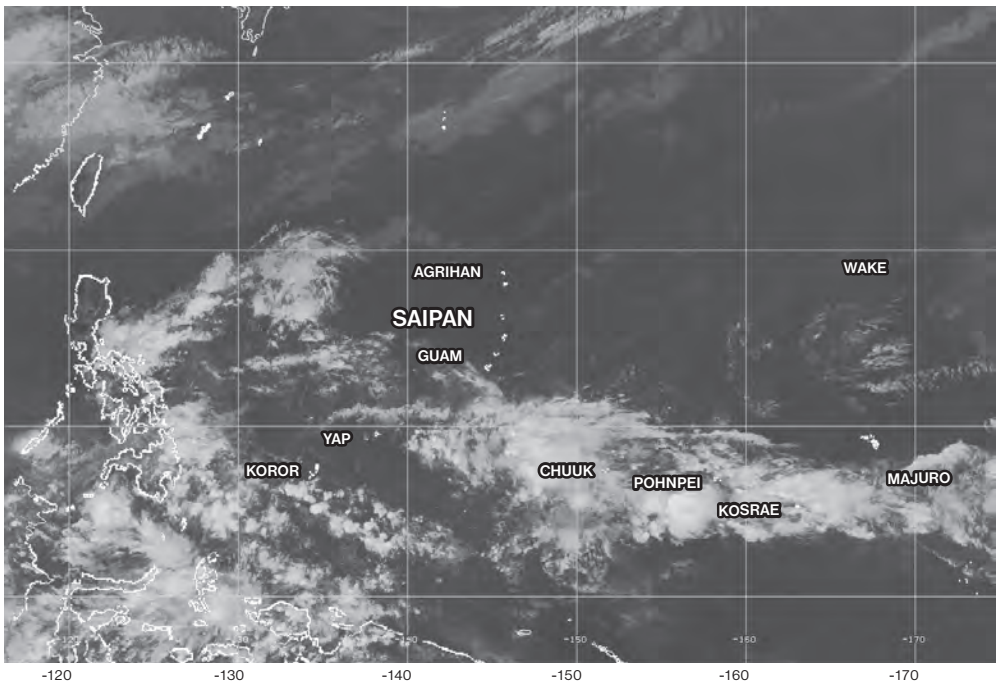
It is in tense times like these that our foundational principles are tested.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Isolated showers. Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
88° 77°	88° 77°	89° 78°	89° 76°	89° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:10 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle to moderate trades prevail in the Marianas. Satellite imagery and Doppler radar indicate mostly clear skies with minor perturbations right outside the coastal waters. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are about 5 feet and steadily rising.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:08 AM	1:09 PM	-
Friday	12:58 AM	1:46 PM	-
Saturday	1:47 AM	2:22 PM	-
Sunday	2:37 AM	2:58 PM	-
Monday	3:28 AM	3:36 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Thundershowers	68° / 62°
Beijing	Sunny	59° / 35°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
London	Showers	51° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 47°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°
Melbourne	Cloudy	61° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	83° / 71°
New York	Sunny	52° / 35°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 47°
Paris	Rain	56° / 46°
Busan	Cloudy	64° / 46°
Rome	Cloudy	68° / 60°
Salem	Cloudy	51° / 34°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 41°
Seoul	Sunny	61° / 37°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	63° / 49°
Washington, DC	Rain	51° / 33°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:02 AM	High Tide	1.19
7:44 AM	Low Tide	0.13
3:34 PM	High Tide	1.62
9:54 PM	Low Tide	0.95

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

24-hour Drifter's Gym opens in As Lito

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A new place for working out and socializing has opened its doors in As Lito and the freshly painted mural that greets you when you step inside—a painting of warriors beating up robots—should make you feel capable of taking on the 30-plus gym machines.

Drifter's Gym, owned by new Saipan resident "Grim" Gonzalez, is a new 24-hour, fully air-conditioned gym, which is the first gym to open in the south side of Saipan.

Gonzalez, with the help of mostly student-volunteers, assembled the equipment inside the gym earlier this month—an undertaking that took roughly a couple of months' work and $50,000.

Registration for memberships opened up on Oct. 23 and in less than a week, the 200-member limit had been filled up, with people on a waiting list.

When registration opens up again on Dec. 20, the price for a 30-day membership is $30, while a monthly subscription will run you $28. For a one-time payment of a year's membership, it is $312, or just $26 a month, which ultimately saves you $28.

To sign up for membership, visit https://www.driftersgym.com/.

Only members with a membership card are allowed inside and you'd have to take off your outdoor slippers/shoes when you enter, as the floor is fully covered with a thick black mat padding. The gym provides indoor shoes or slippers or you may use your clean gym shoes. Cleaning up after yourself is a must.

The capacity of the gym is 44 people, but according to Gonzalez, who has owned gyms in Japan, he is comfortable with 18 people, with up to five people inside at once. "Actually, that's the reason why I put up a limitation… because I wanted to focus on the user experience—not to be overcrowded… I don't want to create a situation where there is an over [capacity] of people, and everyone is unhappy."

Gonzalez, who came to live on Saipan only in May, describes the business as an affordable 24-hour air-conditioned gym. '…I'm sure everyone would love this."

When asked why he put up the business, Gonzales, who is a retired U.S. Marine, said he has dedicated his life to volunteering and public service "just because it makes me happy and it feels purposeful. I am able to avoid that darkness many veterans face after leaving service, the question, 'What am I doing with my life? Is what I'm doing meaningful?' So, although as much as I hate being a 'business owner,' I could at least find some purpose in opening this gym, keeping in enough shape where I don't have to buy new clothes, and being a good role model for my daughter."

Drifter's Gym is also "for those law enforcement officers, for those first responders, for those nurses—when they get off at 2am, where can they socialize? Where can they have stress relief? Where can they feel comfortable, clean? Not humid, sweaty and dying after a long shift," he said.

As for the mural, it was done by free hand within a span of 12 or so hours by artist Aaron Tomokane, while the Drifter's Gym design was made by Gonzalez.

With the name "Drifter's Gym," the 28-year-old said that "I could have called this Blueberry Pancake Gym or Sandy Shell Gym or something, anything. It doesn't really matter. I've lived and wandered through dense jungles to frozen hellscapes. Originally born in a Pirates of the Caribbean-esque set (Costa Rica), I felt like a drifter so I called it Drifter's Gym. I don't know. It's just kind of funny to me."

Right from the parking lot through the clear windows into the gym, your vision is met with the equipment's red and black color scheme—with the huge black and white mural that takes up the wall on the right side.

As for future plans, the single father who ultimately came to Saipan to relax said that in the next six months or so, he is looking at opening a gym in the northside of the island.

Drifter's Gym is located in the building where the old Hollywood Video used to be along Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road in As Lito. For more information, call 670-484-1000.

Drifter's Gym, located in the building where the old Hollywood Video used to be in As Lito, is a new 24-hour air-conditioned gym that opened last Tuesday. It is owned by "Grim" Gonzalez.
LEIGH GASES

Dutch judges to deliver verdicts in MH17 downed plane trial

SCHIPHOL, Netherlands (AP)—It still happens to Silene Frederiksz-Hoogzand after more than eight years. Walking down the street, she will see a girl with long, dark hair or a young man in a baseball cap and think, that's my son Bryce or his girlfriend, Daisy.

But the grim reality quickly kicks in. Bryce and Daisy were among the 298 people killed on July 17, 2014, when a missile shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 above conflict-torn eastern Ukraine.

"Sometimes, when you are low, you hear them. 'Pap, pap. Dad, dad,' and then you remember that this fake. But you feel it," said Silene's husband, Rob.

The couple have attended almost every day of a drawn-out trial of three Russians and a Ukrainian charged in the Netherlands with murder for their alleged involvement in shooting down the Boeing 777 that was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

On Thursday, they will be in court again as the panel of Dutch judges delivers its verdicts in the case. While the outcome is unclear, one thing is certain—none of the four suspects will be there as they have not been arrested and are being tried in their absence. That means that even if they're convicted, they're unlikely to serve any prison sentence.

The verdicts are being delivered against a backdrop of all-out war in Ukraine triggered by Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of its neighbor and the case could set an example for the prosecution by courts in Europe of crimes committed during the war and other conflicts.

None of the suspects is alleged to have actually fired the Buk missile. According to Dutch prosecutors, the three Russians and a Ukrainian worked closely together to procure the missile and launcher, known as a telar, and its crew. It allegedly was fired from an agricultural field in rebel-held territory in Ukraine that was part of a region recently illegally annexed by Russia.

Estee Lauder to buy Tom Ford in a deal valued at $2.8B

The Estee Lauder Cos. is acquiring luxury powerhouse Tom Ford in a deal valued at $2.8 billion, marking the beauty firm's biggest acquisition yet.

As part of the deal announced Tuesday, Ermenegildo Zegna Group and Marcolin S.p.A. will enter long-term license agreements for Tom Ford fashion and Tom Ford eyewear, respectively.

While Estee Lauder said the deal values the total enterprise at $2.8 billion, the New York-based beauty company is expected to pay roughly $2.3 billion, after a $250 million payment from Italian eyewear manufacturer Marcolin SpA.

The purchase, subject to regulatory approvals, is slated to close in the first half of 2023.

Under the agreement, Tom Ford, founder and CEO of Tom Ford International, will remain the brand's creative visionary through the end of 2023. Domenico De Sole, chairman of Tom Ford International, will stay on as a consultant until that same time.

Estee Lauder introduced its Tom Ford Beauty line in 2006. In Estee Lauder's fiscal year that ended June 30, the brand's net sales grew nearly 25% compared to the prior year. The beauty company said that in the next few years it expect the beauty line to bring in net sales of $1 billion.

"This strategic acquisition will unlock new opportunities and fortify our growth plans for Tom Ford Beauty," said Fabrizio Freda, president and CEO of Estee Lauder in a statement. "It will also further help to propel our momentum in the promising category of luxury beauty for the long-term, while reaffirming our commitment to being the leading pure player in global prestige beauty."

Estee Lauder said it aims to finance the acquisition through a combination of cash, debt and $300 million in deferred payments to sellers that become due beginning in July of 2025. ***(AP)***

4H Marianas - Gualo Rai Bus Stop

Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs - CEDA Building Parking Lot

CTSI Logistics - Ladder Beach

DFS Saipan Ltd - Garapan Core Sidewalks & Curbs

Kanoa Football Club - Garapan Core Medians

Life In The Son Church - Gualo Rai Medians

Office of House Minority 22nd Legislature - San Vicente Mural

Office of House Minority 22nd Legislature - Carolinian Utt

Marianas High School - Commissioner Joaquin S. Tudela Community Park

Office of House Minority 22nd Legislature - Civic Center Beach Park Pavilion

Office of House Minority 22nd Legislature - Dandan Children's Park

Office of House Minority 22nd Legislature - Garapan Basketball Court

Broadway Estates Basketball Court

Japanese Society of Northern Marianas - Japanese Peace Memorial

Office of Precinct 2 22nd Legislature - Susupe Basketball Court

Office of Precinct 5 22nd Legislature - Kagman III Basketball Court

Office of House Minority 22nd Legislature - Chalan Kanoa Basketball Court

Office of House Minority 22nd Legislature - Navy Hill Basketball Court

Northern Marianas College - Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Medians

Tan Holdings/Tan Siu Lin Foundation - Bird Island Lookout

Lion's Club International - Sugar Dock Beach

United Filipino Organization & Triple J - San Isidro Beach Park

Tasi Tours - Beach Road Flower Garden

Office of House Minority 22nd Legislature - As Lito Village Mural

Office of House Minority 22nd Legislature - As Terlaje Mural

Sinapalo Basketball Court

Northern Marianas Sports Association - Oleai Sports Complex

Palauan Community Association CNMI - Naftan Point

Tinian Elementary School

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School

Tinian Delegation & CBMA - Tinian Medians, Curbs, Railings, Parking Lots

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Public Private Partnership Program

The Public Private Partnership (PPP) program is one of the GCEA's top initiatives and priorities created to foster partnerships in the community to beautify and maintain The Marianas' tourism sites and village facilities.

Civic, cultural, and educational organizations, government leaders, agencies, private businesses, and other members of the community have come together to transform key facilities across Saipan, Tinian, Rota which includes:

- Tourist Sites
- Community Facilities such as Youth Centers, Pavilions, Social Hall
- Sports Facilities such as Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Skate Park
- Landscaping and Signages
- Public Murals/Artwork
- Medians, Sidewalks, Curbs, Public Parking Lots

Join the over 100 partners in the PPP Program today!
Visit cnmieconomy.com for more information.

Together, We Can!

All Public Private Partnership projects are made possible by the support of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's public benefit fund with the Dept. of Public Lands.

CROWNE PLAZA ANIHG HOTEL RESORT SAIPAN

DPL Department of Public Lands

Saipan Adventure – Grotto

Shirley's Coffee Shop & Shirley's Football Club - Middle Road/Garapan Intersection and Medians

Saint Trading Company, Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club, Mt. Carmel Choir - Mt. Carmel Church Sidewalks & Parking Lot

Saipan Magahaga Lady Eagles Club - Klili Beach Parking Lot

Triathlon Association of CNMI - North Trails

Hopwood Middle School

Hotel Valentino, FILCOR, Rota Merchandising, Rota Mayor's Office - Benita Manglona Buildings

Office of Precinct 4 22nd Legislature - Tanapag Basketball Court

Sinapalo Elementary School

Commonwealth Ports Authority, Airport Operators Committee, POI Aviation - Airport Access Road, Saipan

E-Land Group - Paupau Beach

Hotel Valentino, FILCOR, Rota Merchandising, Rota Mayor's Office - Mendiola Park

Joeten Kiyu Public Library - Susupe Medians

Kagman Elementary School

Tan Holdings/Tan Siu Lin Foundation - Beach Road Pathway

WHO IS MORE EFFECTIVE TO SERVE AS GOVERNOR?

RALPH DLG. TORRES

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS

COVID-19

- Created the safest place in the entire U.S. and saved thousands of lives.
- Spearheaded daily meetings at 4:00 a.m. with FEMA and CDC.
- Was on the field with first responders to ensure proper implementation of COVID-19 procedures.

- Stayed home throughout the pandemic.

- Prioritized himself over public need.

SUPER TYPHOON YUTU

- Worked around the clock to restore power and water.
- Partnered with White House to secure Federal disaster declaration before landfall (a first in CNMI history)
- Led the fastest typhoon recovery in CNMI history.

- Had an inconsistent presence during typhoon response.

RETIREMENT

- Maintained 100% of retiree pension plus bonuses.
- Commended by Federal Judge for timely payments.

- Never gave bonus to retirees in 25 years in politics.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

- Provided more direct assistance than any other administration: food supplies, utility vouchers, stimulus, household items, etc.
- Authorized direct assistance to small businesses, non-profits, and community organizations.

- Spent the last two years focusing on the impeachment of the Governor behind the scenes rather than assisting the people.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Torres - Sablan, Zerlyn Taimanao, Treasurer

WHO IS MORE EFFECTIVE TO SERVE AS GOVERNOR?

RALPH DLG. TORRES

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Poverty declined in the CNMI by 10.7% from 2009 to 2019 because of economic policies led by Governor Torres. (US Census, 2020)

- No meaningful contribution to improve quality of life.

PUBLIC LAND

- Prioritized $88 million for homestead infrastructure on Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Pagan
- Paid $28 million in outstanding land compensation judgments from previous administrations.

- As Lt. Governor, re-negotiated a new lease (for himself) during the pandemic that is one-sided
- For 30 years, was in default of over $100,000.
- Currently receiving $4,500 a month for sublease to Mr. Wang without written consent of DPL.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

- Approved 2 hours a week to support employee wellness
- Continuously supports many health organizations, launched Fit to Lead initiative, etc.

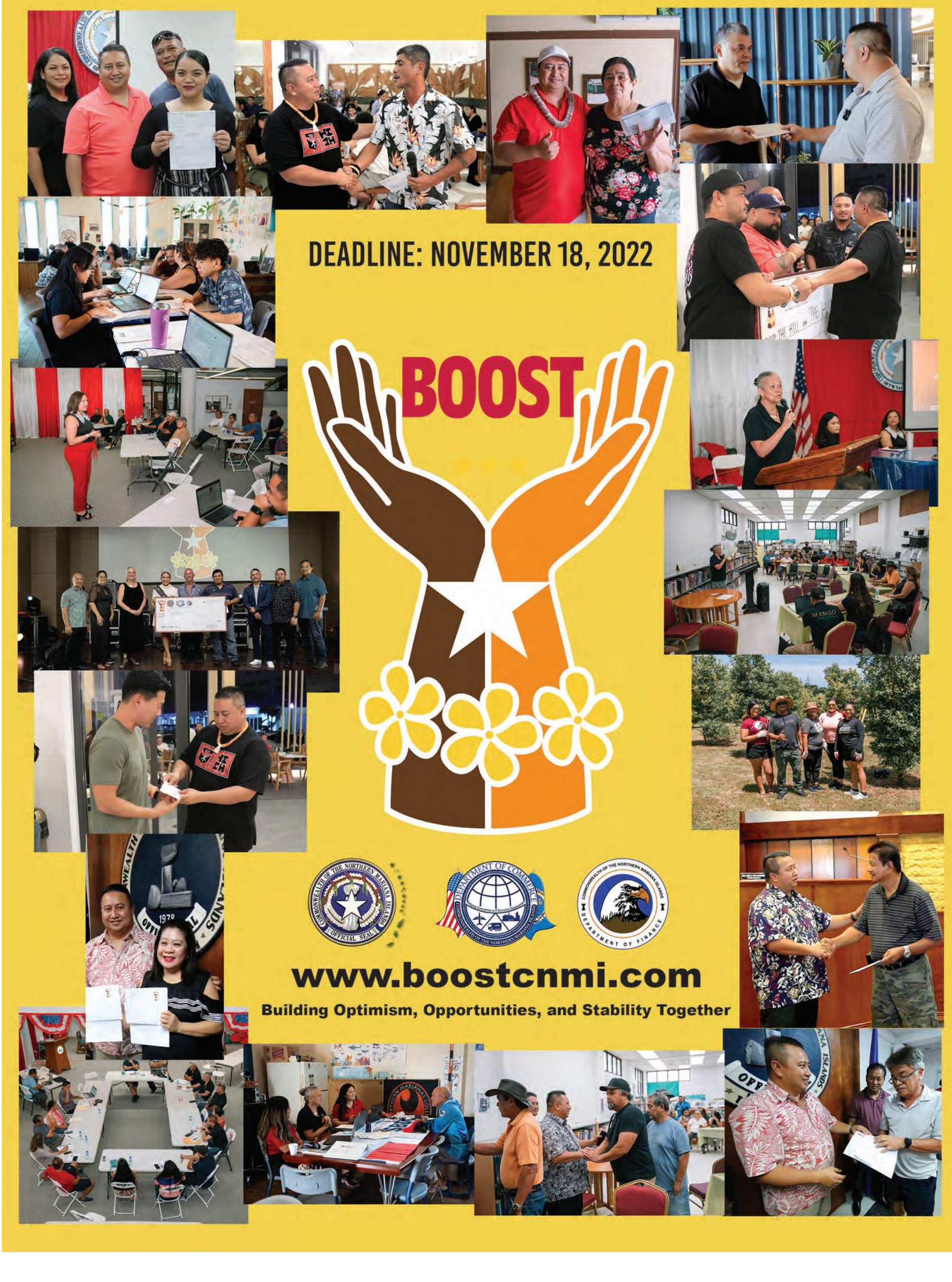
- Has suffered numerous health scares that compromises his ability to lead (knee, back, heart).
- ** Sensitive issue but the public is entitled to know: *30 days in the hospital for heart attack (3 months ago)*

LEADERSHIP AND WORK ETHIC

- Always available especially to Federal partners.
- Can be reached 24 hours a day.
- Always accessible to the people.

- Hardly available
- Shames and bullies staff
- Commonly uses disrespectful language in normal conversation.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Torres - Sablan, Zerlyn Taimanao, Treasurer


DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 18, 2022
BOOST
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Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together

Nation

AMID GOP LOSSES, LEGAL PROBES

Trump seeks White House again

AP

Former President Donald Trump announces a third run for president as he speaks at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022.

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Former President Donald Trump on Tuesday launched his third campaign for the White House just one week after a disappointing midterm showing for Republicans, forcing the party to again decide whether to embrace a candidate whose refusal to accept defeat in 2020 sparked an insurrection and pushed American democracy to the brink.

"In order to make America great and glorious again, I am tonight announcing my candidacy for president of the United States," Trump said before an audience of several hundred supporters in a chandeliered ballroom at his Mar-a-Lago club, where he stood flanked by American flags and banners bearing his "Make America Great Again" slogan.

"America's comeback starts right now," he said, formally beginning the 2024 Republican primary.

Another campaign is a remarkable turn for any former president, much less one who made history as the first to be impeached twice and whose term ended with his supporters violently storming the Capitol in a deadly bid to halt the peaceful transition of power on Jan. 6, 2021.

Trump also enters the race in a moment of deep political vulnerability. He hoped to launch his campaign in the wake of resounding GOP midterm victories, fueled by candidates he elevated during this year's primaries. Instead, many of those candidates lost, allowing Democrats to keep the Senate and leaving the GOP with a path to only a bare majority in the House.

Trump has been blamed for the losses by many in his party, including a growing number who say the results make clear it's time for the GOP to move past him and look to the future, with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis emerging from last week's elections as an early favorite.

In addition to trying to blunt his potential rivals' rise, Trump's decision to launch his candidacy before the 2022 election had been fully decided also comes as he faces a series of escalating criminal investigations, including several that could lead to indictments. They include the probe into hundreds of documents with classified markings that were seized by the FBI from Mar-a-Lago and ongoing state and federal inquiries into his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

As Trump has spent the last months teasing his return, aides have been sketching out the contours of a campaign that is being modeled on his 2016 operation, when Trump and a small clutch of aides defied the odds and defeated far better-funded and more experienced rivals by tapping into deep political fault lines and using shocking statements to drive relentless media attention.

Trump returned to that dark rhetoric in his speech Tuesday, painting the country under President Joe Biden in apocalyptic terms, describing "blood-soaked streets" in "cesspool cities" and an "invasion" at the border and earning cheers as he vowed to execute those convicted of selling drugs.

"We are a nation in decline," he said. "We are here tonight to declare that it does not have to be this way."

Trump notably avoided much talk of the 2020 election, eschewing the extreme conspiracy theories that often dominate his rallies. Still, the speech included numerous exaggerations and deflections as he cast himself as "a victim" of wayward prosecutors and the "festering, rot and corruption of Washington."

While Trump spoke before a crowd of several hundred, notably missing were many longtime supporters including previous campaign managers, aides and his daughter Ivanka, who released a statement saying that she does not plan to be involved in his campaign.

"While I will always love and support my father, going forward I will do so outside the political arena," she said in statement.

Even after the GOP's midterm losses, Trump remains the most powerful force in his party thanks to the loyalty of his base. For years he has consistently topped his fellow Republican contenders by wide margins in hypothetical head-to-head matchups. And even out of office, he consistently attracts thousands to his rallies and remains his party's most prolific fundraiser, raising hundreds of millions of dollars.

But Trump is also a deeply polarizing figure. Fifty-four percent of voters in last week's midterm elections viewed him very or somewhat unfavorably, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 94,000 voters nationwide. And an October AP-NORC poll found even Republicans have their reservations about him remaining the party's standard-bearer, with 43% saying they don't want to see him run for president in 2024.

World

Poland: Russian-made missile fell on our country, killing two

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland said early Wednesday that a Russian-made missile fell in the country's east, killing two people, though U.S. President Joe Biden said it was "unlikely" it was fired from Russia.

The blast, which Ukrainian President Volodymr Zelenskyy decried as "a very significant escalation," prompted Biden to call an emergency meeting of G-7 and NATO leaders. A deliberate, hostile attack on NATO member Poland could trigger a collective military response by the alliance.

But key questions around the circumstances of the missile launch remained amid the confusion caused by a blistering series of Russian airstrikes across the nearby border in Ukraine, none larger than who fired it. Russia denied any involvement in the Poland blast.

Three U.S. officials said preliminary assessments suggested the missile was fired by Ukrainian forces at an incoming Russian one amid the crushing salvo against Ukraine's electrical infrastructure Tuesday. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

That assessment and Biden's comments at the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia contradict information earlier Tuesday from a senior U.S. intelligence official who told the AP that Russian missiles crossed into Poland.

The Polish government said it was investigating and raising its level of military preparedness. Biden pledged support for Poland's investigation.

A statement from the Polish Foreign Ministry identified the weapon as being made in Russia. President Andrzej Duda was more cautious, saying that it was "most probably" Russian-made but that its origins were still being verified.

"We are acting with calm," Duda said. "This is a difficult situation."

Biden's decision to convene the emergency meeting upended schedules for the final day of the Group of 20 meeting in Indonesia.

Biden, who was awakened overnight by staff with the news of the missile while attending the summit, called Polish President Andrzej Duda to express his condolences. On Twitter, Biden promised "full U.S support for and assistance with Poland's investigation," and "reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to NATO."

Meanwhile, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called the meeting of the alliance's envoys in Brussels. The U.N. Security Council also planned to meet Wednesday for a previously scheduled briefing on the situation in Ukraine. The strike in Poland was certain to be raised.

Poland's statement did not address whether the strike could have been a targeting error or if the missile could have been knocked off course by Ukrainian defenses.

In their statements, Poland and NATO used language that suggested they were not treating the missile blast as an intentional Russian attack, at least for now. A NATO statement called it a "tragic incident."

PH police: New drug crackdown leads to less killings

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities have killed 46 drug suspects and arrested more than 22,000 others under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s campaign, the national police chief said Monday, and added the lower death toll underscores efforts to avoid lethal force.

Marcos Jr., who took office in June, has vowed to press on with his predecessor's crackdown on illegal drugs, which left thousands of mostly petty suspects dead, but said it would be done differently and focus more on rehabilitating drug dependents.

The widespread drug killings under Duterte were condemned by Western governments and human rights groups and sparked an investigation by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity.

"You can see here the Philippine National Police now wanted to minimize as much as possible the killings of people engaged in drug activities," the country's police chief, Rodolfo Azurin Jr., told Manila-based foreign correspondents in an online news conference.

"I emphasize to every policeman, if it will not endanger their lives, we minimize the use of force in arresting suspects in criminal activities," Azurin said.

Thousands were killed in the first year of the brutal crackdown Duterte launched after taking office in 2016. He had denied condoning extrajudicial killings in his so-called war on drugs but had openly threatened to kill suspects until his final year in power.

Marcos Jr.'s landslide victory in the May 9 elections has been partly credited to his alliance with his popular predecessor's daughter and now vice president, Sara Duterte. But Marcos has tried to stay away from Duterte's widely condemned campaign.

In an interview with The Associated Press in New York in September, Marcos Jr. was asked if Duterte went too far with his lethal drug crackdown. Marcos redirected the criticism toward those who carried out the plan.

"His people went too far sometimes," Marcos told The AP. "We have seen many cases where policemen, other operatives, some were just shady characters that we didn't quite know where they came from and who they were working for. But now we've gone after them."

Still, Marcos Jr. has come under fire from human rights groups himself for continuing Duterte's crackdown that has led to new killings.

Azurin, who was appointed under Marcos Jr., refused to comment on the scale of drug deaths under Duterte but said some law enforcers then may have not properly assessed that some suspects were "not really harmful."

The 46 suspects killed under Marcos were slain in 32 of more than 18,000 operations, which led to about 22,000 arrests and the seizure of 9.7 billion pesos ($167 million) worth of illegal drugs, Azurin said.

Anti-drug policies were being reviewed and the focus was being shifted to rehabilitating drug dependents, providing them with livelihood skills to wean them from addiction and educating communities to harness residents in the fight against drugs, he said.

BOOST Fishers Farmers Ranchers

PROGRAM

Fishing, farming, and ranching is an important source of food and nutritional security throughout the Marianas. For many, it is a source of income.

Such practices have been passed on from generation to generation and is an important part of our culture and indigeneity. Fishing, farming and ranching create important ties between families and individuals as well as strengthening ties to our environment.

The BOOST Fishers, Farmers and Ranchers program is designed to promote food and nutritional security, protect and promote traditional cultural practices, as well as to diversify and revitalize the economy for those engaged in commercial activity.

BOOST funds are extended to fishers, farmers, and ranchers who produce for sale and trade. A BOOST subsistence stimulus up to $500 is available for applicants who fish, farm or ranch for personal consumption.

Terms and conditions apply. Subject to the availability of funds.

FAQs: HOW DO YOU QUALIFY?

Applicants for **subsistence stimulus** up to $500 must provide evidence of fishing, farming, or ranching activities (video, photos, letters of reference, or other form of testimonial).

Applicants applying for BOOST funds for **commercial sale and trade** must submit a Cover Letter, Copy of Business License, Letter of Compliance (i.e., Tax Clearance), Business Profile, List of Products and Services, and a short Business Plan (no finances required). Corporations are required to submit a Certificate of Existence (i.e., Good Standing)

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BOOST Fishers Farmers Ranchers

SUBSISTENCE APPLICATION FORM

Contact Info

Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Tel. #: _____

Email: _____

Physical address: _____

_____

Mailing address: _____

Instructions: Please mark which category you are applying for. If you are applying for more than one, please rank which category is more important.

- ❑ **Fisher**
- ❑ **Farmer**
- ❑ **Rancher**

Form of Proof: Subsistefishers, farmers and ranchers must provide evidence of fishing activities. Please mark what is submitted by the applicant:

- ❑ Video
- ❑ Photos
- ❑ Letter(s) of reference
- ❑ Other

Notes:

_____

For internal purposes:

Name of Official (print and sign) _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Life & Style

Beyoncé ties Grammy record after leading nominations with 9

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beyoncé has propelled herself into the highest Grammy echelon: The star singer claimed a leading nine nominations Tuesday, making her tied—with her husband Jay-Z—as the most nominated music act in the history of the awards show.

Beyoncé's "Break My Soul" reeled in record and song of the year nominations, while "Renaissance"—which ventured into the world of dancehall music—netted an album of the year nod. With Jay-Z also earning five nods this year, each spouse now holds the record for the most-ever Grammy nominations at 88 apiece.

Kendrick Lamar came away with the second-most nominations, with eight. Adele and Brandi Carlile both received seven nods. Harry Styles, Mary J. Blige, Future, DJ Khaled, The-Dream and mastering engineer Randy Merrill each picked up six.

Nearly half of this year's leading nominees—announced by the likes of Olivia Rodrigo, John Legend, Machine Gun Kelly and Smokey Robinson — are women and more than half are people of color, according to the recording academy. The ceremony will be held Feb. 5 in Los Angeles.

Beyonce

"This makes me feel very proud, but it makes me conscious of the fact that we have to maintain the work we have done," said Harvey Mason jr., the Recording Academy's CEO. He said there have been strides in the peer-driven voting system and increased membership, but he still believes more progress can be made.

"This year, I'm pleased with the result and work the voters did," he continued. "We have almost 13,000 voters now. It's really important work. I'm pleased to think they spent the time listening to the music and evaluating. I think you see by the type of nominations that they are not only going for just popular music or music that has a lot of streams. It's just music of high quality."

The academy added a special song for social change and five new categories including songwriter of the year, which Harvey says will further help diversify the 65th edition of the annual awards.

The non-classical songwriter category will recognize one individual who was the "most prolific" non-performing and non-producing songwriter for a body of new work during an eligibility year. It will take a different approach than song of the year, which awards the songwriters who wrote the lyrics or melodies to one song.

Harvey said implementing the songwriters category is a "significant" step forward for the music industry. Last year, a rule update allowed that any songwriter, producer, engineer or featured artist on a work nominated for album of the year could ultimately earn a nomination.

"The academy and voters are placing a high importance on the craft of songwriting," Harvey said of the new category, in which nominees include The-Dream, Amy Allen, Nija Charles, Tobias Jesso Jr. and Laura Veltz. "Personally, as a songwriter, I'm happy to see it being a significant part of our process. We realize that songwriting is at the heart of our industry. It's one of the building blocks for every artist's career."

Harvey said it's his priority to earn the trust from the music community including The Weeknd and Drake, who are still unwilling to submit any of their music. Drake declined to submit his album "Honestly Nevermind" for the awards, but the Canadian rapper still received four nominations—including album of the year for his co-writing efforts on Beyoncé's "Renaissance."

Kevin Costner's 'Yellowstone' sets viewership milestones

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Costner's Paramount epic "Yellowstone" reached 12.1 million viewers for the opening night of its fifth season on Sunday, the most popular scripted series episode so far in the new television season, the Nielsen company said.

That it was a cable network series—instead of a big broadcaster like CBS, NBC or ABC—makes the achievement that much more impressive.

The total viewership involved a little trickery: the show simultaneously aired on Viacom networks CMT, TV Land and Pop, and there were some same-day reruns. Even with that, there were 9.4 million viewers who saw the premiere episode on Paramount alone.

"We've been able to create a show that didn't start out being popular but did it on its own terms," Costner said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

"Yellowstone" is one of the most appointment viewing-friendly shows on television now, in part because it appeals to an older audience more used to watching TV in a traditional way, said Josef Adalian, West Coast editor of New York magazine's Vulture.com.

"People want to watch it and they want to watch it now," Adalian said. It also proves the enduring popularity of the Western as a genre and, in some respects, it's surprising there haven't been copycats.

The show is overwhelmingly popular in red states. States with Republican governors—topped by Texas—watch "Yellowstone" three times as much as states with Democratic governors, according to Philo, a live TV streaming service.

No scripted series on a broadcast network has reached more than 8 million same-day viewers this season, although audiences usually increase when delayed viewing is taken into account.

'Did not end well': New Pence book details split with Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Vice President Mike Pence blames Donald Trump for endangering his family "and all those serving at the Capitol" on Jan. 6 in a new memoir released Tuesday.

In "So Help Me God," Pence recounts, for the first time in his own words, the Republican former president's extraordinary effort to push him to overturn the results of the 2020 election and shares his account of the day thousands of rioters stormed the Capitol, with some chanting "Hang Mike Pence."

"They had come to protest the result of the election and to prevent Congress from fulfilling its responsibility to open and count the Electoral College votes," Pence writes. "And, as I later learned, many had come looking for me."

The book, which traces Pence's life in politics—from serving as youth coordinator for a local Democratic Party to watching then-Vice President Al Gore certify his election loss days after Pence had been sworn in as a member of Congress—largely defends Trump, glossing over and whitewashing many of his most contentious episodes. "I had always been loyal to President Donald Trump," the book begins.

Pence

But Pence, who spent years refusing to publicly criticize his old boss, makes clear that Jan. 6, 2021, was a breaking point in which, he writes, Trump's "reckless words had endangered my family and all those serving at the Capitol."

"For four years, we had a close working relationship. It did not end well," Pence writes, summing up their time in the White House. Still, he adds, "we parted amicably when our service to the nation drew to a close. In the months that followed, we spoke from time to time, but when the president returned to the rhetoric that he was using before that tragic day and began to publicly criticize those of us who defended the Constitution, I decided it would be best to go our separate ways."

The book, published by Simon & Schuster, comes as Pence appears increasingly likely to run for president in 2024, a move that would put him in direct conflict with Trump, who is expected to formally launch his own reelection campaign in Florida on Tuesday night.

Pence, who in the book never directly states that Democrat Joe Biden won fairly, writes that when Trump first suggested holding a rally in Washington on Jan. 6, the day Pence was set to preside over the election's certification, he thought it was a good idea. "My first thought was that a rally that day might be useful as a way to call even more attention to the proceedings on the floor of the House and Senate," he writes.

Instead, Pence describes sitting in the Senate chamber and presiding over the certification when the Senate parliamentarian leaned over to inform him that rioters had breached the building and a member of his Secret Service detail rushing over to insist they leave. Pence refused to vacate the building and was instead ushered to a Senate loading dock, where he spent hours, surrounded by staff and family members, making calls to military and congressional leaders to coordinate the government's response, as the president—who never bothered to check in on Pence's safety—sat cloistered, watching TV.

Widow encounters happiness following years of violence

DEAR ABBY: I have been a widow for six months. My late husband was a physically and verbally abusive alcoholic. I spent numerous nights in the ER waiting to be seen and nursed many black eyes throughout the years. During all those years of abuse, which was witnessed by numerous friends and family, I remained faithful and dedicated to him and our marriage, but due to the toxicity of our relationship I was severely depressed and needed antidepressants. I tried many times to get him help and had family interventions, only to end up being threatened with getting all my teeth knocked out.

My dilemma is that one of our friends has become more than just a friend. This man is a kind, caring individual and has done more for me this last couple of weeks than my husband did my entire marriage. I have been so happy recently, but I feel guilty for feeling this way and wonder if I should be ashamed for not grieving longer. I feel maybe I'm doing something wrong by being happy and not having to deal with the abuse. What do you think?

SURVIVOR IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SURVIVOR: What I think is that you should be grateful you are free of your abusive late husband. I see no reason why you should feel guilty for not grieving the death of that disturbed individual. That said, it's very important you take your time before getting into another exclusive relationship. You are extremely vulnerable now. You need to heal from the years of abuse you experienced, and possibly receive counseling to ensure you don't drift toward the "familiar" or overlook warning signs of another potential abuser.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband's brother and his family live out of state. They never invite my husband's parents to spend any holiday with them. In fact, they initiate no visits with them at all or travel to the area where we live. (We live in the same city as my in-laws).

My dilemma: I do not want to have my husband's parents at our house for every holiday dinner we host. My children are getting older (one is married), and we don't see them often. Sometimes I want to get together with just our immediate family, but then I feel guilty if I don't ALWAYS include the in-laws. I think my husband's brother should step up to the plate and invite his parents for at least one holiday. I don't think it's fair to expect us to always have them at our house. What do you think?

NEEDING A BREAK IN OHIO

DEAR NEEDING: I agree that this pattern—established heaven knows how long ago—has placed an unfair burden on you. Your husband is long overdue for a conversation with his brother to see if something can be worked out. However, if your brother-in-law is unwilling, you may have to have your smaller family celebrations the night before or night after the holiday.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

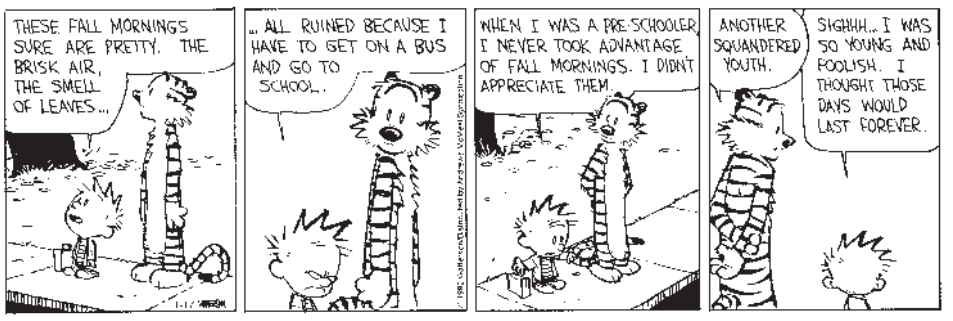
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THESE FALL MORNINGS SURE ARE PRETTY. THE BRISK AIR, THE SMELL OF LEAVES...
...ALL RUINED BECAUSE I HAVE TO GET ON A BUS AND GO TO SCHOOL.
WHEN I WAS A PRE-SCHOOLER I NEVER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF FALL MORNINGS. I DIDN'T APPRECIATE THEM.
ANOTHER SQUANDERED YOUTH.
SIGHHH... I WAS SO YOUNG AND FOOLISH. I THOUGHT THOSE DAYS WOULD LAST FOREVER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'D BETTER FUEL UP
SLURP
I'VE GOT A FULL DAY OF CLAWING STUFF, BATTING THINGS AROUND AND TERRORIZING ODIE AHEAD
JIM DAVIS 11-17

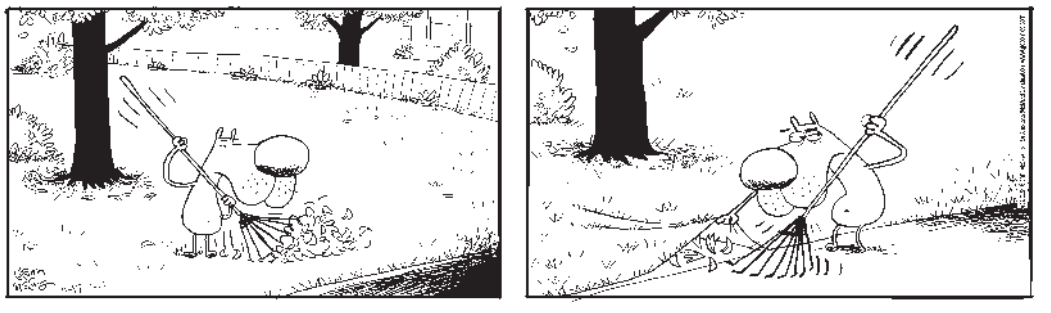
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

TASTE THIS BRINE I MADE FOR THE TURKEY.
OKAY, BUT THANKSGIVING IS STILL A—
OH DANG! THAT IS DELICIOUS!
IT'S MAKING MY EYEBROWS TINGLE!
JUST DO NOT ASK WHAT THE SECRET INGREDIENT IS. PROMISE ME.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dele undoer
5 Long lunch?
8 Bygone jets
12 Bear lair
13 Part of NATO
14 Singer Alessia
15 Neat as —
16 Goat's plaint
17 Out of control
18 Whale variety
20 Marsh birds
22 Harry Potter pal
23 Rest-room, for short
24 Pedestal
27 Rows of PC-screen buttons
32 Estuary
33 "Isn't — bit like you and me?"
34 Actor Stephen
35 How lovers may stroll
38 Glimpse
39 Expert
40 Profit
42 Hayfield work
45 Dodged
49 Raw materials
50 King, in Cannes
52 Wagon
53 Exhaust
54 Completely
55 Lighten
56 Back talk
57 Director Brooks
58 LAPD ranks

DOWN

1 Wound cover
2 Carton sealer
3 Wicked
4 Length of service
5 "Bewitched" witch
6 Broadway's Hagen
7 Humdrum
8 Ornamental beetle
9 Tea urns
10 1982 sci-fi film
11 Fifth Avenue store
19 "Scram!"
21 Caribou's kin
24 Bikini top
25 Football filler
26 Needlework pieces
28 — Lingus
29 "Jurassic Park" actor
30 Gym unit
31 Utter
36 Showy flowers
37 Dijon denial
38 Chopin works
41 Chicago transport
42 Automatons, for short
43 Met solo
44 Metric measure
46 Bummer
47 Sunrise direction
48 Salon jobs
51 Flamenco cheer

Solution time: 24 mins.

H	E	I	R		D	E	W		O	M	I	T
A	C	M	E		U	R	I		S	O	S	O
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T	A	L	C		P	O	P	S	T	A	R	S
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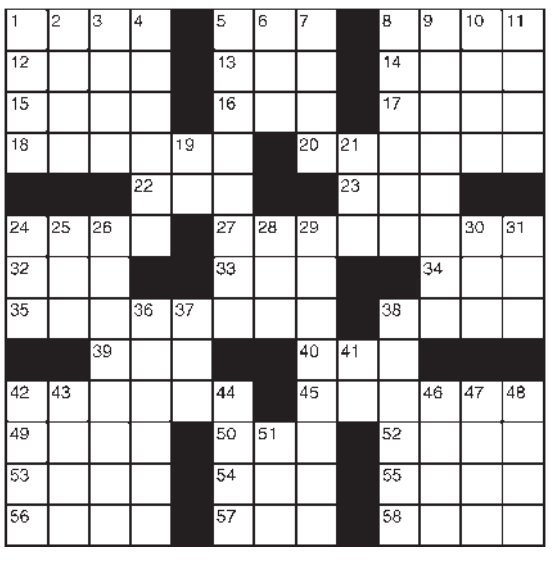
Y	E	A	S		X	O	O		D	A	D	O

Yesterday's answer 11-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachel McAdams, 44; Leslie Bibb, 48; Danny DeVito, 78; Martin Scorsese, 80.

Happy Birthday: Put your energy into home, family and finances. Pay down debt and save for something special. Think outside the box, and you'll discover something you can do that makes you happy and encourages you to use your expertise. Extra income and personal gain are within reach, and self-improvement will lead to greater confidence and a chance to advance. Your numbers are 7, 19, 25, 28, 33, 39, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Spending while you're feeling emotional is discouraged. Take care of your physical and mental well-being. Do your best to eliminate stress by putting your energy into something that makes you feel good about who you are. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make a move. Do your own thing, and leave nothing to chance. Focus on how you earn your living and what you can do to improve your position, the type of work you do or how much you make. Take ownership of your life. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be careful what you wish for, or you may end up in a feud with someone you least expect. Getting along will be half the battle. Aim to please, compliment and offer a fair deal, and you'll bypass controversy. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Knowing what everyone else is doing will help you make better decisions. Consider what you can do to bring greater dimension to whatever you pursue. Someone will praise you for your contribution. Keep your personal feelings to yourself. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Have fun and enjoy the benefits of doing business with people who share your concerns and direction. Keeping things amicable, simple and to the point will pay off and help you get a nod of approval from those who can contribute to your success. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stay on track, and don't lose sight of your goal. Don't let outside interference or emotional stress brought on by comments or gestures someone makes cause you to react in haste. Bide your time, think matters through and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Do your due diligence and go directly to the source. Getting the correct information is crucial if you want to come out on top. Sign up for events that will bring you in contact with people who have something to offer. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Interact with people from different backgrounds, and you'll learn something new. Be cautious regarding joint ventures. Do your own thing if you don't share the same motives as someone who wants to partner. Don't make decisions under emotional duress. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Emotions will interfere with common sense. Take a moment to evaluate whatever situation you face and the suggestions made by those closest to you. Anger will hold you back and push you into a compromising position. Rethink your strategy and begin again. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A money deal will turn out better than anticipated. Look over contracts, prepare documents and invest more time and money in yourself. Choose to use your skills more diversely, and you'll enjoy what you do and bring in additional cash. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Just keep moving. Channel your energy into something you want, and you won't be disappointed. Refuse to let a change someone makes affect your plans. Don't make unnecessary adjustments at home or to a relationship experiencing a transformation. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't share too much information about yourself or your plans. Check out what everyone is doing, and you'll gather the knowledge to help you move forward with your goals. An emotional situation will turn into a valuable learning experience. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, spontaneous and fun-loving. You are proactive and protective.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8		5				6		7
			6		3			
1				4				2
	4			3			6	
		8	9		7	4		
	9			6			2	
7				8				5
			1		5			
5		4				8		6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	7	8	5	2	9	6	1	4
5	4	9	8	6	1	2	7	3
6	1	2	4	7	3	5	8	9
8	2	7	6	4	5	3	9	1
9	3	5	7	1	8	4	6	2
4	6	1	3	9	2	7	5	8
1	9	4	2	5	6	8	3	7
7	5	3	1	8	4	9	2	6
2	8	6	9	3	7	1	4	5

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GROWING CUCUMBERS Solution: 4 letters

P	I	C	K	L	I	N	G	N	I	B	M	I	L	C
V	O	T	A	M	O	T	R	E	L	L	I	S	A	T
I	E	L	F	L	O	W	E	R	C	I	B	E	T	I
N	T	G	L	A	C	O	L	K	R	K	L	A	T	U
E	A	N	E	I	E	T	I	B	R	E	O	S	I	R
N	M	D	I	T	N	T	O	O	R	A	O	O	C	F
V	I	A	D	A	A	A	A	U	N	E	M	N	E	C
I	L	L	K	E	R	B	T	G	K	C	A	N	S	I
R	C	A	H	E	E	A	Ⓛ	Ⓘ	Ⓞ	Ⓢ	C	K	H	N
O	T	S	C	R	R	S	H	E	O	E	I	O	S	A
N	O	I	U	E	M	O	P	L	A	N	T	H	I	G
M	P	T	P	U	M	T	S	E	V	R	A	H	D	R
E	A	M	R	E	Z	I	T	E	P	P	A	T	I	O
N	E	D	R	A	G	A	T	H	E	R	E	T	A	W
T	E	X	T	U	R	E	R	U	T	S	I	O	M	P

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Appetizer, Bite, Bloom, Climate, Climbing, Dish, Drums, Environment, Fence, Flower, Fruit, Garden, Gate, Gather, Harvest, Heat, Home, Lattice, Like, Local, Make, Market, Menu, Moisture, Nature, Organic, Patio, Pickling, Plant, Pollination, Pot, Rain, Recipe, Root, Salad, Season, Seed, Shape, Skin, Snack, Soil, Temperature, Texture, Tomato, Trellis, Vegetable, Vine, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Rapper

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Kings race past Nets 153-121 for 4th straight win

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Terence Davis scored 31 points off the bench and sparked a big second-quarter run that helped the Sacramento Kings race past the New Jersey Nets 153-121 on Tuesday night for their fourth straight win.

Kevin Huerter had 19 points and Domantas Sabonis added 17 as the Kings had their highest-scoring game in nearly 30 years. Sacramento has won seven of nine following an 0-4 start to coach Mike Brown's first season.

"It's a great feeling," Brown said. "It's why we are a team. ... We have had guys contribute on multiple nights off the bench. Sky is the limit when you start to have that happen."

Kevin Durant scored 27 points to lead Brooklyn but the Nets had no answers defensively against Sacramento. The 153 points allowed were the most ever in a regulation game in Nets history.

"We had great intentions," Durant said. "They made shots. That's demoralizing when you see teams making shots. It's not like we didn't try. They were better than us."

AP

Sacramento Kings guard Terence Davis (3) shoots between Brooklyn Nets guard Edmond Sumner, left, and forward Nic Claxton during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022.

The game was highly anticipated in Sacramento with the Kings getting a rare chance to play on national television. They made the most of their opportunity with a dominant performance fueled by the 27-4 second-quarter run.

Davis got it started with a 3-pointer that broke a 40-all tie midway through the period, and Sacramento didn't miss another shot for nearly six minutes.

"It's fun," Huerter said. "You keep winning and people want to see you play. … We got good momentum here right now."

The Kings made 10 straight shots from the field, with Davis leading the way with 10 points. Huerter capped it with the fourth 3-pointer for Sacramento during the spurt to make it 67-44.

Brooklyn missed nine of 10 shots during that stretch, with the Nets' only points coming on a basket by Edmond Sumner and two free throws from Durant.

Sacramento didn't stop there and built the lead to 109-70 on a 3 by Huerter with four minutes left in the third. It was the biggest lead at any point in a game for the Kings since they were up 44 on New York on March 3, 2015.

The Nets had their second straight poor defensive game after starting off strong on that end under coach Jacque Vaughn. Brooklyn allowed 94 points per game and 38.8% shooting in Vaughn's first six games as coach but gave up 134.5 points per game and 54.3% shooting the last two games in losses to the Lakers and Kings.

"I don't know if our minds, our bodies and souls are still in LA," Vaughn said. "LA can do that to you sometimes. ... We definitely gave maximum effort against the Clippers and we've been reeling ever since."

Pelicans 113, Grizzlies 102

In New Orleans, C.J. McCollum scored 14 of his 30 points in the third quarter and New Orleans overcame Ja Morant's 36-point effort to beat Memphis.

McCollum had averaged just 9.5 points on 27% shooting in his previous four games, was 7 of 13 from long range to help make up for Zion Williamson's scoring absence with the star forward out with a bruised right foot.

The Pelicans led 89-87 after three quarters and opened the fourth with a 15-4 run, led by five points from reserve guard Jose Alvarado, to take a 104-91 lead. The Pelicans also got 19 points each from Brandon Ingram and Larry Nance Jr., and they held Memphis to 15 fourth-quarter points.

Mavericks 103, Clippers 101

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 35 points, Dorian Finney-Smith added 21 and Dallas held off Los Angeles after blowing a 25-point lead.

Reggie Bullock broke out of a shooting slump with four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, including two in a row to put Dallas ahead for good at 99-93 with less than two minutes remaining.

Paul George scored 23 points, playing the entire second half to try to keep the LA rally going on the second night of a Texas back-to-back after winning in Houston.

Knicks 119, Jazz 111

In Salt Lake City, Jalen Brunson had 25 points and eight assists and New York handed Utah its first home loss of the season.

Cam Reddish scored 19 points, R.J. Barrett had 18, and Julius Randle 15 for the Knicks. They shot 47% from the field in their third road win of the season.

Kelly Olynyk had 27 points and 10 rebounds for Utah.

Trail Blazers 117, Spurs 110

In Portland, Ore., Jerami Grant scored 29 points and Portland rallied to beat San Antonio.

Anfernee Simons added 23 points and Damian Lillard had 22.

Jakob Poeltl had a career-high 31 points for San Antonio. He was 14 of 17 from the field.

Analysis: No shock in East as Celtics, Bucks vie for lead

By NOAH TRISTER
AP SPORTS WRITER

The top of the Eastern Conference looks about as expected — with Boston and Milwaukee currently neck and neck for the lead.

Those fast starts have been anything but routine, however.

The Celtics suspended their coach before the season even started, but under interim choice Joe Mazzulla, they're now on a seven-game winning streak and have the best record in the NBA. The Bucks won their first nine games, but recently they've had to deal with Giannis Antetokounmpo's occasional absences. They've won two of three when he's been out.

"It just shows our depth and how good of a team we truly are," Milwaukee's Brook Lopez said recently. "Coach (Mike Budenholzer) — he said before, it's like, it's kind of exciting. Giannis gets to rest, refill his cup, and we get a chance to get better and see what we're like without Giannis on the court, and get better in that way."

The Celtics (11-3) and Bucks (10-3) don't play each other until Christmas. For now, these two teams — who played a stirring seven-game playoff series in the second round last season — are bringing a bit of normalcy to the standings. That's been largely absent in the West, where Golden State is muddling along under .500 while Utah and Portland are around the top of the conference.

The Celtics went to the NBA Finals last season in Ime Udoka's first season as coach. Then he was suspended for at least this season for violating team rules by having a relationship with a female staffer within the organization. Mazzulla took over and has the team rolling. Boston routed Nikola Jokic and Denver 131-112 on Friday. On Monday night, the Celtics rallied from a 15-point deficit to beat Oklahoma City 126-122.

After falling just short of a title last season, Boston looks tested and ready to contend again.

"These guys have been through a ton, and it helps them in a game like tonight where they really don't have it going, and then they've got to turn it on on both ends of the floor and they did," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said after Monday's game. "So credit them. They went and got that one."

Boston is No. 1 in the league in offensive rating, and Milwaukee is No. 1 in defensive rating. The first time the Bucks played without Antetokounmpo this season was a little over a week ago against Oklahoma City. Lopez scored 25 points, Bobby Portis had 21 rebounds, Jrue Holiday had 13 assists — and Milwaukee held the Thunder under 100 points to win by 14.

"I think we all knew obviously that we'd all have to chip in," Lopez said. "Pretty much everyone came on, had an impact."

These are the stretches that test a team over the course of an 82-game season, when injuries or just normal wear and tear leave a star player unavailable. That win over the Thunder gave Milwaukee a 9-0 record, and since then, the Bucks have played twice more without Antetokounmpo, who has dealt with left knee soreness.

The Bucks split those two games. Ironically, they've lost the last two games they've played with Antetokounmpo, including Monday against Atlanta.

Still, they've shown they can win without their biggest star. Another team that's done that of late is the Washington Wizards, who have won four straight despite playing all of those games without Bradley Beal, who went through health and safety protocols.

The last game Beal played in was Nov. 4, a 42-point loss to Brooklyn. Coincidentally, that was also the first game for the Nets following Kyrie Irving's suspension. Irving was suspended after posting a tweet with a link to a documentary that includes Holocaust denial and conspiracy theories about Jews. The Nets said they suspended him in part because he wouldn't say unequivocally he has no antisemitic beliefs.

Brooklyn looked downright dysfunctional while losing six of its first eight games. Coach Steve Nash was replaced after the team's seventh game, and then — with Jacque Vaughn serving as acting coach — Irving scored just four points in a loss to Chicago.

But since then, Brooklyn has won four of six, all without Irving — and the Nets decided to keep Vaughn as their head coach going forward. His team isn't surging quite the way Mazzulla's is, but Brooklyn is hopeful it has found the right leader after an ugly start to the season.

Veteran skippers Francona, Showalter voted Managers of Year

By DAVID BRANDT
AP SPORTS WRITER

AP

Cleveland Guardians manager Terry Francona makes a pitching change during the fifth inning of the team's baseball game against the Houston Astros, Aug. 4, 2022, in Cleveland.

Terry Francona of the Cleveland Guardians and Buck Showalter of the New York Mets trace their beginnings as major league managers to a time when starting pitchers still threw complete games, defensive shifts were rare and stats like WAR, WHIP, OPS and FIP weren't part of baseball's everyday lingo.

Times have changed, but the veteran skippers keep winning games.

Francona and Showalter were voted Managers of the Year on Tuesday night, improving their already sparkling resumes.

Showalter — who narrowly won the National League award in a wide-open race — is just the third person to take the prize four times and the first to do it with four different franchises. He won in the AL with the New York Yankees in 1994, Texas Rangers in 2004 and Baltimore Orioles in 2014.

The other four-time winners are Hall of Famers Bobby Cox and Tony La Russa.

"Sometimes the more things change, the more they stay the same," Showalter said. "You still have to do the same things to be successful in our game. We've just got a lot of different ways to verify some of the guts that you have. There's a lot more stuff analytically that you can use to verify what your eyes and your experience may tell you. There's a lot of different ways to skin a cat."

Showalter received eight of 30 first-place votes, 10 second-place votes and 77 total points, edging Los Angeles Dodgers skipper Dave Roberts, who finished second. Roberts also earned eight first-place votes but had just four second-place votes for 57 points.

Brian Snitker, who won in 2018, finished third with 55 points after his Atlanta Braves erased a big deficit and chased down the Mets to win the NL East. He received seven first-place votes in balloting by a Baseball Writers' Association of America panel.

Showalter guided New York to the second-best regular season in franchise history, finishing 101-61 for a 24-win improvement over 2021. He's the first Mets manager to win the award, which has been presented since 1983.

The 66-year-old skipper brought stability and gravitas to a franchise that had been saddled with on- and off-the-field issues over the past several seasons.

Showalter credited general manager Billy Eppler and the rest of the organization with hiring the right people.

"That's why you're so picky about who you surround yourself with," Showalter said. "Realizing you don't have all the answers, but as a group you can be really strong if you have an open mind and open ears. Sometimes your actions speak so loudly you can't hear a word somebody says.

"You can sit around and pop your gums a lot, or you can listen and understand the end game you're all trying to get to."

After leading their division nearly all season, the Mets settled for the top NL wild card and lost to San Diego at home in the opening round of the playoffs.

Francona won the AL award for the third time in 10 seasons. He received 17 of 30 first-place votes and nine second-place votes for 112 points from the BBWAA panel.

Baltimore's Brandon Hyde finished second — earning nine first-place votes and 79 points — after leading the Orioles to a 31-win turnaround. Seattle's Scott Servais was third with one first-place vote, eight second-place votes and 14 third-place votes. He led the Mariners back to the postseason this year, breaking a playoff drought that lasted two decades.

A two-time World Series winner with Boston, Francona's 10th season in Cleveland may have been his best managing job. He's the ninth person to win the award three times.

"It should be considered an organizational award, because that's how I feel," Francona said. "You start hearing people talk about you personally, it makes you a little uneasy, but for the things that it allows me to brag about our organization, that makes me really happy."

Baseball's youngest team, the Guardians unexpectedly won the AL Central, overtaking the Chicago White Sox in September and running away with the division. Cleveland then swept Tampa Bay in the wild-card round before losing in five games to the Yankees in the AL Division Series.

Voting was conducted before the postseason.

Francona made it through the season after major health issues forced him to leave the team in 2020 and 2021. The 63-year-old said he was re-energized by his young team, which had 17 players make their big league debuts this season.

He intends to return in 2023, but Francona and the Guardians have an open agreement that would allow him to step aside if he needed.

Cy Young Award winners will be announced on Wednesday, and the league MVPs on Thursday.

Steinbrenner met with Judge, says 'we've got a good thing'

NEW YORK (AP)—Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner held a one-on-one meeting with Aaron Judge to make sure the star free agent slugger knows how much New York wants him back.

"I do believe he wants to be a Yankee. I think we've got a good thing going here," Steinbrenner said Tuesday during a 30-minute question-and-answer session with reporters at the Major League Baseball owners meeting.

Judge turned down an offer from the Yankees ahead of opening day that would have been worth $213.5 million from 2023-29. Steinbrenner said he approved general manager Brian Cashman making the offer public since he thought it would leak out.

Steinbrenner says other commitments wouldn't restrain the Yankees in talks with Judge.

"We know where we're at, and I can tell you that that's not going to stop us," he said.

Judge set an American League record with 62 homers and tied for the major league lead with 131 RBIs. The likely AL MVP, he has said his preference is to remain with the Yankees.

Steinbrenner met alone with Judge and was involved in two or three other meetings with the right fielder that included others.

"I wanted him to know how I felt in case there was any — what's the word I'm looking for? — in case there was, any lack of clarity on his part — ambiguity," Steinbrenner said.

Steinbrenner spoke before it became known that first baseman Anthony Rizzo had agreed to a $40 million, two-year deal to stay with the Yankees.

In other news, he said:

— Anthony Volpe and Oswald Peraza will be given a chance to earn infield jobs during spring training.

— Cashman's new contract is "just semantics at this point. I've told him that I want him back," Steinbrenner said. "It's just a matter of salary."

Judge could become Yankees captain if he stays in the Bronx. Steinbrenner said he envisions Judge as another in a line of Yankees all-time greats, such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra and Derek Jeter.

"People gravitate toward him. The young players gravitate toward him. And, obviously, our fans, very important to our fans, the fan base, and very important to my family and the organization," Steinbrenner said. "So I've absolutely conveyed that I want him to be the Yankee for the rest of his life. No doubt about that. He knows that. The rest is up to him and his family and where they where they want to go from here. But we're going to do what we can, I can assure you."

While there is no set timetable for talks, other negotiations will have an impact.

"I'm not going to be in a position and can't be in a position to see players start to come off the board, trades start to being made," Steinbrenner said. "And he understands that."

New York hasn't reached the World Series since winning the 2009 title, and Steinbrenner admitted fans were frustrated by the Houston Astros' four-game sweep in the AL Championship Series.

"We're not proud of it and we're not happy about it," Steinbrenner said.

He said the team has addressed players who didn't hustle at times, such as when Gleyber Torres failed to run out balls and Josh Donaldson thought a drive down the right-field line was a home run only to get thrown out against Cleveland in the Division Series.

"The fan base expects Yankees to act in a certain way, and I'm sure that upsets them, when something like that happens," Steinbrenner said. "It's addressed immediately, Aaron Boone, Cashman and me if I have to get involved."

New York made an effort to improve defense last offseason and while it was noticeably sharper, Steinbrenner admitted "in the postseason it was not as good as I would have liked to have seen."

With Judge raising interest, the Yankees drew 3.1 million fans, down from 3.3 million in the last season before COVID-19.

"We're really almost back at that '19 levels, which I think is a great accomplishment" Steinbrenner said. "But season tickets are still going to be a question, whether it's people still worried about COVID."

Over 50 take part in Underwater Treasure Hunt

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The first ever Underwater Treasure Hunt last Nov. 5 at Pau Pau Beach in San Roque was a complete success.

AQUASMITH Spearfishing general manager Morito Asai said a total of 51 children took part in the underwater scavenger hunt for real vintage coins.

"I'm very happy with the turnout. We had 51 kids. We limited the treasure hunt to 2-3 coins per person so others can still have a chance to get the coins," he said.

AQUASMITH Spearfishing organized the inaugural Underwater Treasure Hunt with Islands Keepers CNMI to encourage the younger generation to engage in ocean activities by giving them a safe and fun experience.

MARK RABAGO

Participants of the first ever Underwater Treasure Hunt pose for a group photo last Nov. 5 at Pau Pau Beach.

And by all accounts the goal was achieved as participants enjoyed every minute of the underwater scavenger hunt.

"It was very fun and exciting. I didn't expect to win a fishing rod," said 11-year-old Anton Tiwlighyong Nagasaki Ragopes.

Peter Phair said his favorite part was the excitement in finding the coins.

"It was really fun. It was pretty hard to find the coins but they were really cool looking and not like anything we see here. Searching in the water made it more of a challenge. They also really talked about the corals a lot and said it's important to be careful around them and pay attention anytime you're in the water swimming or whatever. I'm glad I got to go, this was different and nothing event was like this," said the 13-year-old.

Ryusei Asai seemed to agree with Phair a lot.

"My favorite part was looking for the coins, even though it was hard to find them. I found one gold and two silver. We also had a mini-raffle for picking up cigarette butts. Win win! Got a prize and cleaned the beach!" said the 11-year-old.

Organizers specially ordered 100 silver coins and 15 gold coins for participants of the treasure hunt to search for.

The 15 gold coins that were scattered in the waters off Pau Pau Beach were 1973-1980 uncirculated Egyptian coins, while the 100 silver coins were Buffalo nickels circa 1913-1938.

The prizes given away during the raffle included gift certificates from sponsors for hobie cat cruising, kayak/SUP board rentals, snorkeling lessons, food tickets, flashlights, cooler bags, portable fish scales, masks and snorkel sets, and more.

"We really want to encourage the younger generation to engage in ocean activities, so they can be interested in any kind of fishing and marine activities, or marine life, environment, etc. We want to do this annually and see the results every decade," Asai earlier said.

The sponsors of the first-ever Underwater Treasure Hunt and they were Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Tasi to Table, Fishing Tackle, Saltys Saipan, FishGuyz Scuba & Charter, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Dayoff, Seawind Marine Sports, Zen Corp., Aqua Connections, Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club, Division of Coastal Resources Management, and Division of Parks and Recreation.

SSHS steals win against MCS in last minute of HS soccer

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Mark Patubo carried the Saipan Southern High School boys' soccer team to victory in a last-minute charge at the goal to steal the win against Mount Carmel School, 3-2, last Tuesday during the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League game at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In dramatic fashion, Patubo scored the tie-breaking third goal to clinch the victory for the Mantas with less than 30 seconds left on the game clock, which rightfully triggered a burst of cheers and whoops from his teammates and supporters.

The third and final goal completed the hat-trick for Patubo, with the first couple of goals scored in the 30th minute then the 38th minute.

The Knights fought valiantly as the game almost ended in a draw after they came back from a 1-0 game before the first goal from Gabby San Nicolas in the 37th minute. Markus Toves then tied up the game in the 41st minute.

The Knights kicked a few attempts at the goal to hopefully take the lead first, but would miss each one, with the Mantas scoring the tie-breaking goal.

The Mantas' lineup include the aforementioned Patubo, Simon Tang, Monaco Claridades, Jonne Navarro, Larry Marquez, Anthony Austria, Carl Salas, Ron Patricio, Michael Peters, Vu Arachige, and Jack Paul Lizama.

The Knights are the aforementioned San Nicolas, Toves, Jared Terlaje, Jose Mafnas, Leo Naraga, Raymond Salas, Min Soo Kwon, Ruben Guerrero, Devin Propst, Sam Lee, Derek Sasamoto, Earl Lacadazo, and Brandon Lee.

Meanwhile, Saipan International School won against Marianas High School junior varsity via forfeit.

LEIGH GASES

Mark Patubo from Saipan Southern High School is seen in one of their games of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMI

From Page 24

she, Ethan Sablan, Kern Han, and Mjay Capalad, with Jake Maratita as head coach, Preston Basa as coach, Jose Tudela as assistant coach, and Mike Mercado as team manager.

The NMI has not competed in the FIBA Oceania Championship since 2009 and in this championship from Monday, Nov. 21, to Saturday, Nov. 26, the other U15 teams competing against the NMI are host Guam, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Samoa.

The NMI boys team is in Pool B and will first face off with PNG on Tuesday, Nov. 22, followed by FSM the next day, Wednesday, Nov. 23.

The NMI girls team is in Pool B as well and will duke it out with the girls of PNG on Monday, Nov. 21, with a battle against Guam on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

The quarterfinals are set for Thursday, Nov. 24, the semifinals are scheduled for Friday, Nov. 25, and the finals are set for Saturday, Nov. 26.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee told the players, "When you go out there, always keep your heads up high as you are representing the CNMI. Do your best in every game. Most of you will be competing in a high-level tournament for the first time, so observe, understand, and learn from every game you have and every team you will face."

He then thanked the parents "who have entrusted their children to us and supported their participation in our NMIBF Junior National Program."

The 26-year-old Lumabi said, "this is a great opportunity. This is an opportunity I never got when I was your age, to go out and play and see Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, PNG… That opportunity is presented to you guys. I hope you guys maximize that because we never got that chance. You guys do. So, take advantage of that and use it… it's [going to be] a really tiring week… they're real one-hour basketball games… so you need to have that mind set [that] we're not there to vacation, we're there to play– to take care of business."

The players representing the CNMI are products of the NMIBF's Junior National Basketball Program which seeks to create a sustainable youth development program on the island that kicked off this year.

TAN

From Page 24

with a double major in accounting and management, took leadership roles in the Northern Marianas Badminton Association and Saipan Bowling Association before being elected as NMSA president in 2020. He is also the president of the Northern Marianas Islands Football Association, a member of the East Asian Football Federation Executive Committee, and was part of the Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee that successfully delivered the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 amid the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, he worked with UOG to pave the way for five NMI student-athletes to earn athletic scholarships from the university.

"I am very honored and humbled with this recognition and thanked the people who nominated and voted for my inclusion into the Class of 2022 Hall of Fame. It's inspiring to get recognized for something that you love to do, but what's even more inspiring is to see many people, especially our youth, staying active by playing sports. It does not matter which sport they are involved with as long as they go out, play, and enjoy the game," Tan said.

"I am happy that after the pandemic, UOG has resumed sports competitions and even brought back other sports programs. UOG has also made athletic scholarship opportunities available to student-athletes from the NMI. I hope to see more NMI student-athletes play for UOG and complete their degrees," Tan added.

Meanwhile, the NMI sports community congratulated Tan for his induction into the UOG Athletic Hall of Fame.

"On behalf of the NMSA Board and our sports community, I would like to congratulate Jerry for this latest achievement. A well-deserved recognition for someone who has supported, not just one, but a lot of sports organizations and leads the efforts in providing opportunities for our athletes and encouraging our community to live a healthier lifestyle," Northern Marianas Athletics president and NMSA vice president Ramon Tebuteb said.

NMI Sports Hall of Famer Kurt Barnes, who nominated Tan to the UOG Athletic Hall of Fame, noted that the NMSA president's support to the sports community is unparalleled and under his leadership, NMI sports and the islands' athletes can look forward to many milestones.

"Jerry has an impeccable insight and vision on what needs to be done and how to do it. In this regard, he stands head and shoulder above most people in the sports world. He sincerely belongs to the UOG AHOF and will continue to create a pipeline for athletes from the NMI to further their education at UOG with the help of athletic scholarships," said Barnes.

Athletes and their parents also joined the long list of individuals who congratulated Tan for his latest achievement and thanked him for leading programs that open many doors of opportunities for NMI residents. ***(PR)***

HANNAH

From Page 24

ued her dominance over Serin Chung by beating her schoolmate, 6-3, 6-3.

Elliot beat Anne Lee in the semifinal round, 6-3, 6-0, while Chung reached the finals with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Hoo Wang.

Mihye Michelle Park, meanwhile, topped the women's 2.0 after Jalexia Rulona couldn't play in the finals due to an injury. Park barged into the finals following a 4-6, 3-3 (retired) win over Jocelyn Paano, while Rulona advanced with a 6-1, 6-1 triumph over Lam Lamee.

In the mixed doubles 50, Lydia Tan and Jeff Race went a perfect 2-0 in pool play and didn't drop a set to claim the division. Tan and Race first beat Eunkyoung Lee and Dong Min Lee, 7-6 (3), 6-2, before registering a walkover win over Annie Lai and David Lai.

The 2022 Tan Holdings Tennis Classic was sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and its sponsors include Quality Distributors, ACS Trust, Mobil Oil Marianas, IT&E, Shirley's Coffee Shop, D&Q Saipan, Alliance Metal Specialists, TakeCare Insurance, All Star Sporting Goods, Tsang Brothers Corp., Docomo Pacific, McDonald's Guam and Saipan, MarPac, iShop, and Athletes Foot.

Kings race past Nets 153-121 for 4th straight win

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Sports

Over 50 take part in Underwater Treasure Hunt

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NMI U15 hoops team off to Guam

LEIGH GASES

The NMI Boys and Girls U15 National Team, along with their head coach Marlene Lumabi, front left, and Northern Marianas Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee, far left, pose for a photo in their new jerseys during their sendoff ceremony at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room last Tuesday.

By LEIGH GASES
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For the first time, a girls and boys U15 National Team will represent the NMI in Guam for the FIBA U15 Oceania Championships next week, with the finalized roster announced last Tuesday in a sendoff ceremony at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The NMI Girls U15 National Team players include Chealzka Navarro, Aaleyah Fatialofa, Andrei Kaithlynn Chavez, Mia Abuan, Tamia Hix, Aiyana Fatialofa, Maria Enriquez, Valerie Estella, Mya Pangelinan, Asa Backe, Azriel Fatialofa, and Angelina George. The officials with them are Marlene Lumabi, head coach; Madeleine Alegre, assistant coach; and Richelle Kautz, team manager.

The NMI Boys U15 National Team players are Michael Mercado Jr., Jay Pineda, Christian Lucero, Lance Lerio, Leonard Regalado, Jezpher Navarro, Austin Diaz, Slymark Defang, Onick Ragbon-

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Tan inducted into UOG Athletic Hall of Fame

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan was enshrined into the University of Guam Athletic Hall of Fame last Saturday at the UOG Calvo Field House.

Tan made it to the Class of 2022 honorees, joining former UOG president Dr. Robert A. Underwood, Guam national volleyball player Larry G. Gamboa, Guam national basketball and volleyball player Michelle Tiasipic, and the undefeated 1977 UOG Football Team to the select group. UOG senior vice president and Provost, Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, and dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, led the induction ceremony at halftime of the game between the UOG Tritons and the Four Stars in the Triton-KFC Men's Basketball League.

Tan and Underwood were inducted into the elite group as sports administrators with the NMSA president recognized for his outstanding work for various sports organizations in the NMI and his support to health and wellness activities across Micronesia.

Tan, who graduated magna cum laude at UOG in 1983

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Top photo shows Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, center, posing with University of Guam senior vice president and provost, Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, right, and dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, after receiving the UOG Athletic Hall of Fame trophy during the Class of 2022 Induction Ceremony last Saturday at the UOG Calvo Field House. Bottom photo, Tan joins four of the five NMI student-athletes playing for UOG for a group photo.

Hannah is women's 4.0 singles champ

Chae

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Hannah Chae upset top seed Irin Chung to claim the women's 4.0 singles tiara of the 2022 Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts.

The second seeded Chae defeated Chung in two hard-fought sets, 6-4, 6-3.

The 13-year-old Saipan Community School student opened her campaign with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Savita Sikkel before meeting Chung in the finals.

Chung, meanwhile, debuted with an easy 6-0, 6-1 victory over Grace Choi prior to being ambushed by Chae in the championship round

"I was very surprised and happy at the same time. I practiced very hard so I'm really proud of myself," said Chae after winning the women's 4.0 division.

Chae owed her victory last Sunday to getting back to fundamentals and finally getting her emotions in check.

"My tennis technique was working well and I wasn't that nervous when I was playing against Irin," she said.

She also thanked her coach, Moris Villanueva, and her parents for supporting her tennis hobby.

In the women's singles open, Hye Jin Elliot contin-

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